

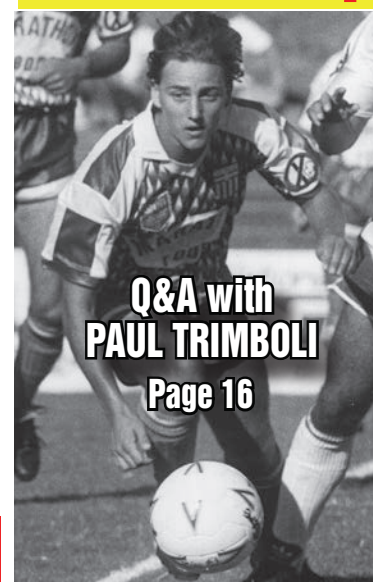
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W e e k l y

Vol. 7 No. 18 Monday 27th June 2011

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Danny Wright (left) and Mehmet Durakovic are ecstatic after South Melbourne's win on penalties in the 1990-91 NSL Grand Final against Melbourne Croatia (Knights).
Photo:JOHN PUNSHON

Durakovic Lands Victory Job

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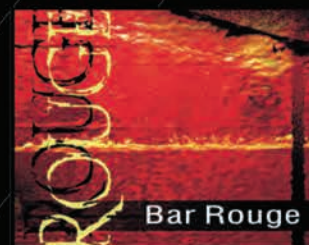
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Durakovic appointed Victory coach

MELBOURNE VICTORY announced that former Soccerroo and recent Caretaker Coach, Mehmet Durakovic, has been appointed as the clubs Head Coach for the next two seasons, while another former Soccerroo and recent SBS football analyst, Francis Awaritefe, has been appointed as the clubs Football Director.

Chairman, Anthony Di Pietro, made the following statement at last Tuesday's press conference; "It gives me great pleasure today, to announce two significant appointments in the football department at Melbourne Victory.

"After much deliberation and an extremely thorough recruitment process, the Board of Directors has appointed Mehmet Durakovic as the clubs Head Coach for the next two seasons.

"Francis Awaritefe has been appointed to undertake the newly created position of Football Director.

"The club received over 80 applications for Head Coach and went through two stages of interviews prior to reaching our outcome. I'd like to thank the Board of Directors and those who provided external advice, in particular Han Berger, for their work and assistance. I'd like to thank each of the candidates and I'd like to thank our members for their patience and confidence in our handling of the process.



Francis Awaritefe, Anthony Pietro and Mehmet Durakovic at the MVFC press conference during the week.

"In Mehmet and Francis, we have two young and respected former Soccerroos who we believe will take this club to the next level – both domestically and in Asia. They have extensive experience in Australian football and are both incredibly driven to succeed.

"Mehmet did a fantastic job in a short space of time to transform our recent AFC Champions League campaign and demonstrated to the Board, that his managerial and coaching skills were of the quality we were seeking.

"The way Mehmet presented

throughout the process was second to none and it became clear that he was the right person to take the club forward.

"We are also very excited about what Francis brings to our football club. He assumes a newly created role, Football Director, which in addition to handling the football department administration, will involve fostering our football 'club centred' philosophy and culture. Francis will also drive the creation of our youth pathway programs and development of a prototype for up and coming Melbourne Victory foot-



Awaritefe & Durakovic back in their playing days

ballers.

"Francis will work very closely with our key football staff, comprising of Mehmet, Assistant coach Kevin Muscat and goal-keeping coach Steve Mautone.

"These appointments are further examples of the investments being made in Australian coaching and the improvement of technical expertise of Australian players.

"It is an unbelievably exciting time for Melbourne Victory.

"We have a strong belief in the squad that we are bringing together and we have great faith in our key personnel at the football

club.

"It is a fresh approach that we take and we eagerly await the 2011/12 season to commence."

After serving as Caretaker Coach for the past three months, Mehmet Durakovic was understandably delighted to be taking on the full-time job. "It's a great honour to be appointed coach of Melbourne Victory Football Club. I've been involved in football as both a player and as a coach for 25-years now and I'm confident these experiences will stand me in good stead.

"I was really happy with the way the players responded to my coaching style during the AFC Champions League and will a solid pre-season under their belt, I'm confident our fans will see a new and exciting Melbourne Victory in 2011/12."

While former Soccerroos striker and SBS television football analyst, Francis Awaritefe was equally as excited. "Firstly I'd like to thank Anthony Di Pietro and the Melbourne Victory board for giving me this fantastic opportunity. It's an exciting time at the club and along with Mehmet and the rest of the football department, we look forward to a great season ahead."

The Melbourne Victory playing squad returns to the club on Monday, July 4 for the start of pre-season training.

SHORT PASSES

Williams Signs For Heart

Melbourne Heart FC's attacking stocks have received a major boost after signing rising Soccerroo David Williams.

Williams joins Heart on a three-year deal after starring for North Queensland Fury last season, joining Fred, Mate Dugandzic and Curtis Good as the newest additions to the Red and White.

Making 34 appearances in three years at Danish club Brondby, including in the UEFA Cup, where he scored against Finnish club FC Haka, Williams returned to Australia in 2009, signing with North Queensland Fury, where he developed a reputation as a genuine game breaker.

Williams' speed and blistering shot makes him a threat from anywhere in the final third, adding a unique dimension to the Heart attack for the 2011/12 season.



David Williams in action for the now defunct Fury

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UK's worst football team - celebrate first win in 19 years with week-long bender

By Gary Ralston

THE WORST team in Britain are in ecstasy after winning their first league game for 19 years. Northend Thistle on the Isle of Arran have been celebrating all week after a stunning 2-1 win over Brodick last Monday night. Their home ground, the appropriately named Ewe Camp at Lochranza, has never witnessed scenes like it as players hugged in jubilation before heading off to drink the bar dry at the Catacol Bay Hotel. Northend Thistle are so bad no one can recall the last team they defeated back in 1992, or even the scoreline. Since then, week after week, season after season spent in the Arran League has seen them slump to scorelines such as 8-1, 10-1, 11-1, and 14-0. Club officials have lost count of the number of games they have come off second best but estimate it was approaching 200 as they play in a six-team league with a 10 game season. It took them 16 years to record their first point - and their story has featured on Sky Sports, ESPN and they even had their own photographic exhibition at the Scottish Football Museum at Hampden recording their plight. Straight-talking striker Scott "Swampy" Murdoch described the performance two years ago when



Northend Thistle finally taste victory after 19 years of trying.

they lost 14-1 to Brodick as "absolutely and totally gash". However, the history books are being rewritten after Brian McCallum's first-half double put them on the road to a famous win, even if they had to survive a late onslaught from Brodick. Full-back Billy Sturgeon said: "We've had to wait so long for a win but the feeling when the whistle blew was one of euphoria. "Our player-manager, Davie Jef-

frey, is the only member of the squad who played in the last winning side and even he can't remember the team we beat. "We're rotten and we're in it for a laugh. There are only about 300 people in Lochranza and we pull in players from all over the island to make up the team. "Other villages have larger populations and bigger squads and train two or three times a week. We train once a week on Monday nights.

"We became a running joke after we were tagged the worst team in Britain. Sky came and I've never seen Charlie Nicholas laugh so much. "We've featured at the Scottish Football Museum and on ESPN. "Brodick were gutted to be on the receiving end of the defeat and now they're the butt of jokes but their players all shook hands and congratulated us. "We were 2-1 up at half-time

thanks to Brian's double but we were hanging on at the end. "They hit the bar and had our keeper under real pressure, it was backs-to-the-wall stuff. "However, we defended with everything we had because we knew we were within touching distance of such a famous win. The scenes afterwards were absolutely surreal." The club's home ground takes its name from the fact a flock of sheep are let loose on it to keep the grass in trim. Now Northend are looking to complete a dream double when they face Lamlash at Lochranza in the league on Monday night. Sturgeon, 29, a joiner, has been a member of Northend for five years and yet, remarkably, the victory over Brodick was only his second appearance for the club. He said: "I only started playing again this season because I was out for five years with knee and ankle injuries. "Despite so many defeats the guys enjoy playing. We are a team of joiners, greenkeepers and posties, normal fellas, mostly in our mid-20s, although we also have a 14 and 15 year-old. "We still can't believe we've won a match but we'll probably need to record another couple of victories before we can really lose our tag of worst team in Britain. - Scotland's Daily Record

Thunder Coach heads for Glory

By George Stogiannou

Experienced Premier League coach Chris Taylor is the new senior coach at Dandenong Thunder following Stuart Munro's decision to resign and head to the A-League. As far as Munro is concerned, the "A" in a A-League could just as well stand for addictive, as a brief taste of assistant coaching at that level last season was enough to get him hooked. When the offer came along to be Ian Ferguson's assistant coach at Glory for season 2011-12, it proved irresistible to the former Rangers player. The former Dandenong Thunder coach describes his decision to resign from Thunder as follows, "I had a really good thing here (in Melbourne), but at the end of the day I've always been a career coach, and as a player at the highest level, that's where you always want to be or at least try yourself and test yourself at that level. The opportunity to go back there (Perth Glory), for a full season, is just too good. I'm really looking forward to going back and working at that level again because I really did enjoy my time there last season." Under Munro and club president Driton Maliku, Thunder have enjoyed a stable period of three seasons at Premier League level both on and off the park. The two men are close, reflected in Maliku's comments on Muro's tenure at Dandenong. "Dandenong Thunder never had a coach like Stuart Munro. I have been involved for 24 years at the club and I never remember anyone being a senior coach that long at the club. We'd never had that success in our history. He was a real class coach, a real professional coach." For the record, Thunder under Munro won the Minor premiership in runaway style in 2009, reached the grand final that same year before losing to Altona Magic in a penalty shoot-out, missed the finals in 2010 before reviving again in 2011 with impressive results and performances. Its win -draw-loss tally under Munro is 33-14-14. For Munro, what's more important than the figures is the transformation of the club from a State League team to an established VPL team with professional coaching and medical structures. According to the coach, such a club presents itself as a viable VPL outfit and is better able to attract playing and coaching talent. Munro's sudden departure from the club comes at a time when it lies outside the top five, in 8th spot ap-

proaching the run-in to the finals. A steady experienced hand is needed at the helm, and the club has acted quickly to appoint experienced VPL coach Chris Taylor, relying heavily on Munro's strong personal recommendation of Taylor. Munro says of Taylor, "Chris I think will be very very good for the players. I think he's strong, he's a strong very knowledgeable coach. He's operated at this level before at Melbourne Knights and Sunshine Georgies. He lives locally, which is good for him. I don't think he'll change things a lot. He will put his own mark on the club and I think they're very very lucky to get him." As Munro prepares to fly off west, he believes Thunder's future looks bright, but takes a parting shot at the FFV and its dealings with the club over discipline matters. "I think they've got a very good future in front of them, albeit if the FFV doesn't keep on hammering them." Asked if the FFV has been unfair in its treatment of the club, he responded, "By unfair we're not saying something maybe happened or didn't happen. It's incredibly ridiculous. I've seen worse things happen in my time in the State League at other clubs, ten times

worse than what I've seen happen at Thunder. Really I think it's a case of the detail, that the FFV are trying to stamp down on certain things but they're going about it far too heavy handed, or they're doing it to the point where they're going to eliminate certain clubs from the competition. Certainly the punishment doesn't fit the crime in any of the cases from last year to this year. But hopefully the club can put it all behind it and concentrate on trying to win games between now and the end of the season and get to the finals. I think the team, if we have a fully fit squad of players is actually capable of going all the way this year." And what of the current crop of Thunder players. Is there a possibility of one or more of them fol-

Stuart Munro heads West and links up with former Glasgow Rangers team-mate Ian Ferguson.



lowing their former coach across the Nullarbor to appear in a Perth Glory shirt in future? Munro replies, "I think several players in this team could be successful (at A-League level). At the moment Perth Glory have only got space for one more player. They've got a very limited budget. What I do know is that in the A-League, if you have long term injuries, you're allowed to replace them with somebody. The big thing is now I know where you could find players. Whether it be in November or December or whatever, I know what certain players are capable of. Senior coach Ian Ferguson will be making those decisions although he would certainly trust my judgement."

Perth Glory will celebrate the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season with a new logo to commemorate the club's 15th anniversary. Proud of the club's rich history which began in 1996, a special logo has been created to embrace the milestone. "This is a great club and we'll definitely draw on our history to celebrate the season," Perth Glory Chief Executive Paul Kelly said. "We really want to connect with our fans and past champions this season," Kelly added. "We are the A-League's oldest club, and it's a tradition we are really proud of."

SHORT PASSES

TRIMMERS APPOINTED ROAR GM

Brisbane Roar has appointed former Socceroo Paul Trimboli to the position of General Manager of Football. Trimboli, 42, will step into the newly created position at the club on August 1 as preparations continue for the upcoming Hyundai A-League season and Brisbane's title defence. A Certified Practising Accountant, Sponsorship and Promotions Manager and a two-time Johnny Warren Medal winner Trimboli brings both a wealth of football experience and business acumen to the job. Brisbane Roar CEO Eugenie Buckley said Trimboli's appointment was an important part of the club's evolution. "We're extremely excited to have secured someone with Paul's experience to fulfil such a vital role in the club," Buckley said. "We feel Paul's standing within the game, the respect he garners within the football community and the exceptional business experience he's gained were a perfect fit for the position. "Paul will form an important part of our administrative team and will be responsible for managing the business requirements of the Football Department. "We are confident Paul's arrival will play an important part in continuing to develop Brisbane Roar as a pacesetter in the Hyundai A-League both on and off the park." Trimboli won three National Soccer League titles with South Melbourne (1991, 1998 and 1999) and also took part in the club's Club World Championship in 2000, experience which will serve the club well as it embarks on its first ever ACL Champions League campaign in February. He has worked extensively as an accountant as well as providing in-depth analysis of Hyundai A-League games on both radio and television.



Paul Trimboli in South days

GLORY UNVEILS NEW LOGO

Perth Glory will celebrate the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season with a new logo to commemorate the club's 15th anniversary. Proud of the club's rich history which began in 1996, a special logo has been created to embrace the milestone. "This is a great club and we'll definitely draw on our history to celebrate the season," Perth Glory Chief Executive Paul Kelly said. "We really want to connect with our fans and past champions this season," Kelly added. "We are the A-League's oldest club, and it's a tradition we are really proud of."



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Cup prepares for 6th Round

By Robert Di Fabio

The unveiling of the Mirabella Cup Round 6 (Super 12's) draw was announced on recently with some mouth-watering encounters on display. The fixtures are due to take place between June 28 and July 6 (disregarding game two of round 6). A full comprehensive preview has been conducted of each fixture.

Northcote City (VPL) vs Port Melbourne (State 1)

An exciting contest awaits as the Mirabella Cup begins to showcase glamorous fixtures for the Victorian football community.

Northcote City currently sits merely outside the top five in the VPL; their second season in Victoria's pinnacle league following promotion has seen the club achieve fantastic achievements, memorably winning a spot in last year's play-offs. Their round five cup tie saw them convincingly defeat local outfit FC Bullen Lions (State 1) 4-0. It was a contest which showcased Northcote's aspirations for cup glory this year.

Meanwhile, Port Melbourne currently sit on top of the State League One ladder, as their endeavour to win promotion into the VPL looks a highly achievable objective. Their magnificent form has been a constituent fascist of their league and cup form this year. A destructive performance against powerhouse Victorian club South Melbourne saw the State League One outfit record an unforgettable upset.

Their 2-1 triumph in the dying minutes illustrated their capacity to play a high quality brand of football. Given Northcote's status in the Victorian pyramid ranking, one would anticipate their inclusion into the next round; however writing off Port Melbourne would be in the vein of committing a sin. A compelling fixture is on hand, both outfits will be eager to win their place in the next round, expect a riveting contest.

Ballarat Red Devils (State 2)/St Albans Saints (VPL) vs Hume City (VPL)

The fifth round tie between Ballarat Red Devils and St Albans Saints is yet to be played. Due to particular complications, the match is scheduled to take place on Saturday July



First Whittlesea Zebras, then FC Clifton Hill. Will the Knights be next on Cobram's Cup list? Photo: PETER KAKALIAS

9. The eventual winner will then proceed to play VPL outfit Hume City.

Ballarat Red Devils have been in ominous form in State League Two N/W and only sit just outside a promotion play-off spot. The Devils last cup tie in round four came against North Geelong Warriors (State 1) where they triumphed in remarkable circumstances, with a Luke Armstrong strike in the 109th minute sealing a 1-0 victory.

In contrast, St Albans introduction to the top flight of Victorian football has been rather disappointing. Plummeted last on the table and facing a daunting relegation battle, the cup may play second fiddle to the Saints. St Albans won hard tightly contested encounter 1-0 against Geelong (State 2) in round four. Their clash with Ballarat should encompass another hard fought contest. Ballarat will attempt to take advantage of a vulnerable St Albans outfit, expect little between these sides.

Meanwhile, Hume City is playing a great brand of football in both the league and cup. Sitting on top of the VPL table, Hume will be a realistic prospect of a possible double triumph this season. Hume's round five cup fixture saw the VPL outfit outshine

Moreland City (State 2) 2-1, a scoreline closer than many expected.

Southern Stars (State 1) vs Oakleigh Cannons (VPL)

Southern Stars will boast all the confidence in the world when it hosts high flyer Oakleigh Cannons at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

The Stars and Cannons are both performing strongly at the top end of their respective leagues, in State League One and the VPL respectively. With the Stars holding grand ambitions of playing at the pinnacle level next season, this encounter could be regular encounter if all things come into fruition throughout this campaign.

Last round, the Southern Stars had one of the most surprising records of the competition, when it eclipsed past Bentleigh Greens (VPL) 4-0 in a morale boosting fixture. As evidenced, the Stars are capable of knocking off higher division teams, in charismatic fashion. However, their encounter with the Cannons should showcase a tougher assignment ahead. Oakleigh's round five cup game saw the Cannons defeat Pascoe Vale (State 1) 1-0. The Stars to register a tougher contest for Oakleigh, however given the status and form of the VPL outfit,

it is expect they will progress to the next round.

Melbourne Knights (VPL) vs Cobram Victory (Regional)

Arguably the most highly anticipated fixture of the round. Cobram Victory's cup exploits have taken them to the last 12, where the now the Regional outfit will face its toughest assignment yet-a date with former NSL champions, and current renowned VPL powerhouse Melbourne Knights on their home turf of Knights Stadium.

The Victorian, sorry Australian football community has had all eyes glued onto the rousing cup run of little known Regional outfit Cobram Victory. A club plying their trade on the Murray River boarder continues to surprise with major upsets. Reminiscent of the emblematic Australian culture, many people throughout the football fraternity have been backing the under-dog. We only need to read particular fan forums or social media sites, with many football fans backing Cobram. Their successive routs over Whittlesea Zebras (State 1) and FC Clifton Hill (State 2) have received an unprecedented amount of media. Victory's exploits are a true illustration of the allure of cup football and

6th Round Details

Northcote City (VPL) v Port Melbourne (State 1)
Ballarat Red Devils (State 2)/St Albans Saints (VPL) v Hume City (VPL)
Southern Stars (State 1) v Oakleigh Cannons (VPL)
Melbourne Knights (VPL) v Cobram Victory (Regional)
Heidelberg Utd (VPL) v Green Gully (VPL)
Dandenong Thunder (VPL) v Springvale White Eagles (VPL)
Fixtures be played between June 28 and July 6.

what's it's able to showcase to our game.

By Melbourne Knights' standards, this season has been nothing short of a failure thus far. Sitting on the lower spectrum of the VPL table, not too far from the relegation zone, the Knights have consistently performed below far and will be determined to turn around their season's fortunes. This cup meeting represents an immense opportunity for progression into the next stage. However, as evidenced by previous encounters against Cobram Victory, any team that takes them lightly or doesn't perform at the pinnacle of their powers will be flirting with danger. Given the Knights' status, it is expected they proceed to the next round in comfortable fashion. With the limelight firmly on Cobram, they will be ever so resolute to venture on and continue their fairytale hallucination.

Heidelberg Utd (VPL) vs Green Gully Cavaliers (VPL)

A fascinating contest awaits as the first of two all-VPL contests takes its place in the inaugural Mirabella Cup competition.

Of late, both outfits have hit a wealth of form and are assembling formidable attempts at being premiership credentials in the VPL.

Since Heidelberg's inclusion from round four onwards in the cup, United has had reflective scorelines of a 4-2 margin- against Banyule City (State 2) and Preston Lions (State 1) respectively. Although, Green Gully will patently be their grandest test yet,

Green Gully boasts the title as the last club to win a state wide Victorian based cup competition. The Cavaliers



possess the record of winning the coveted Dockerty Cup competition, which came to a termination in 2004. Reverting back to their Mirabella Cup form, the Cavaliers had a first up effortless 18-0 win over Regional outfit Mildura United, followed by a hard fought 1-0 victory over recently relegated Sunshine George Cross (State 1).

Their last meeting was back in Round nine of the VPL, where Heidelberg claimed bragging rights with a hotly contested 1-0 triumph. There is little between these two outfits, as both will be eager and vigorous to venture onwards in the cup.

Dandenong Thunder (VPL) vs Springvale White Eagles (VPL)

The second fixture representing an all VPL affair is the highly fancied Dandenong Thunder, who are welcoming Springvale White Eagles, an outfit struggling for survival in the VPL to George Andrews Reserve.

Their solitary meeting this year surfaced in round eight of the VPL season, where Thunder made their presence felt with a commanding 3-0 triumph away from home at White Eagles Stadium.

Both clubs have had contrasting season's, amid the controversy surrounding an incident at a Dandenong Thunder fixture, resulting in a points deduction, the club has been in promising form and looking to cement a spot in the VPL finals series. In stark contrast, the Eagles' season is all about survival. Following promotion from State League One with counterpart St Albans Saints last season, the Eagles held grand ambitions of challenging for a play-off position and being a competitive outfit.

However, none of the above have come into fruition. With relegation drawing closer each week, the cup could be a distraction not warranted at this stage of the season. Thus, it will be interesting to witness how the Eagles balance this juggling act. Given Thunder's good vein of form, it is expected that they progress to the following stage.



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Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

How has your transition from Schalke to Sevilla been?
It's been great! I'm happy at my new club particularly because Serbian defender Ivica Dragutinovic is here and he has helped me to settle and organise my life in Sevilla.

Compare the Bundesliga to the Primera.
They are both very different. I don't know which one is better but here in Spain the players are quicker and have more contact on the ball and the level of football is more similar for a player with my technical abilities.

Why did you choose Sevilla?
I heard a lot of nice things about Sevilla when I had conversations with my Schalke teammates Raul and Jurado. I knew that Sevilla had a great season last year and it's a big Spanish club that is going to fight for titles in the coming seasons.

Why did you choose Croatia over Switzerland since you were born in Switzerland and played for their junior sides?
My whole family is from Croatia and I really feel as a Croat. Of course, I'm from Switzerland too, but I believed that for my family I had to play for Croatia.

Who has been the biggest influence in your career?
A very famous former Croatian player! Robert Prosinecki has helped me a lot and I have learnt

Ivan Rakitic Interview



Serbia and Sevilla star Ivan Rakitic relaxes with a game of table football.

many things from him. He is my idol.

What advice do you have for youngsters that play in your position?
For all young players I always say that professional football is very hard too. People only see the nice things, but they must know that you must be careful with your life and of course work very hard at training and after the trainings!

What was it like playing for Croatia for the first time?
It was a great deal of pride for me of course. I'm very young and to play for a national team is a really nice thing.

Euro 2008 was a great tournament for Croatia, do you believe the side will repeat its achievement in euro 2012?
I really hope so. I think we have

a real nice team because we have young and good players.

You are only 22 and you have already played almost 50 games for Croatia and you have played for some real big clubs, what keeps you focused and does all the fame get to your head at times?
This isn't a problem for me. As a player you must be focused on your career. You must think about your job and representing your family, club and country the best way possible.

What are Sevillas plans for the future?
The club is building a new very strong team in order to repeat the victories of the recent past.

Hajduk or Dinamo?
I like all the Croatian teams. I haven't got any preferences.

You have a few tattoos, what do they mean to you and what are you planning next?
I don't get a tattoo for the fun of it. Each tattoo means something to me and if I get more it will be for the same reason.

What part of your game would you like to improve?
Uff, well to be honest you can always improve every aspect of your game, and I train hard and work on every part of my game.

What do you think of Australian football and how much do you know about it?
To be honest I don't know much about football in Australia but I understand they are a new nation in football terms and they did well in the last two World Cup campaigns. I wish them luck because there is a lot of Croatians living in Australia and Croats have been part of the team before.

Hajduk legend Ivic dies

Legendary Manager Tomislav Ivic died on Friday aged 77 in Split,Croatia.
Ivic was one of the best Managers from Former Yugoslavia and one of the most well respected and successful Managers in Europe. He was in charge of the famous Hajduk Golden Generation which one three Yugoslav League titles and Four Yugoslav Cups in the 70's. He also won League titles in Belgium with Anderlecht, in Holland with Ajax, The Portuguese League with FC Porto, French League 1 with Olympique Marseille, The Greek Championship with Panathinaikos. In addition he also won The Spanish Cup with Atletico Madrid, The Portuguese Cup, The European Super Cup and Intercontinental Cup with FC Porto. Ivic's Hajduk side was one of the best in Yugoslav football history and the best in the clubs 100 year history. Italian sports daily La Gazzetta dello Sport proclaimed him as the most successful football manager in history, due to his 8 league titles won in 6 different countries. He will be missed by all in the football world



Tomislav Ivic

SHORT PASSES

Joeys narrowly go down to Brazil
The Qantas Joeys have given one of the tournament favourites an almighty scare as they were edged out 0-1 by Brazil at Estadio Guadalajara in their second Group F match of the FIFA U-17 World Cup Mexico 2011.
The Qantas Joeys more than held their own against the South Americans in what was a vast improvement on Tuesday's performance against Côte d'Ivoire, in which they ironically won. This time was the opposite as the Qantas Joeys did enough to get something from the contest, but were left with nothing to show for it.
World Cup matches can often be decided by a single defining moment, and the one that decided this game, cruelly for the Joeys, came courtesy of an exceptional 76th minute free kick from Brazilian number 10 Adryan.
Despite the loss, Qantas Joeys Head Coach Jan Versleijen was significantly more satisfied than after his team's first match, as they predominantly followed the game plan down to a tee to close down Brazil's strengths and capitalise on their weaknesses.
All that was missing was a result that would have confirmed the Qantas Joeys in the next round, which will now depend on their final group match against Denmark.
The Joeys' final group match against Denmark will be broadcast today (Monday 27th June) from 8.45am on SBS.

Alex Tobin appointed Football NSW State Technical Director
Highly decorated former Socceroo Alex Tobin has been appointed as Football NSW's State Technical Director.
In what is a major coup for Football NSW, the former Australian Captain brings not only a wealth of playing experience but the AFC and FFA coaching qualifications that make Tobin the ideal candidate in delivering the National Curriculum.
"Both the FFA and Football NSW recognise that the quality of players being produced needs to be raised. "My aim will be to create a culture in youth football and with all registered coaches in NSW where elite development is the absolute priority.



Alex Tobin

FFA comment on Lucas Neill
Football Federation Australia CEO Ben Buckley has endorsed Lucas Neill as "one of the finest Socceroo captains of all time".
"As the captain of the Qantas Socceroos, Lucas Neill has demonstrated exceptional leadership over the past five years," said Buckley.
"He stands tall as an Australian sporting leader of the highest quality." Buckley has dismissed reports in last week's press reports, which allege that Lucas Neill countermanded instructions delivered by the Qantas Socceroos coach Pim Verbeek prior to the FIFA World Cup match against Germany.
"No one involved with the Socceroos in South Africa can recall any incident with the slightest resemblance to what has been described in the press," he said.

Spanish Armada Captures European U21 Title

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Spain, the current holders of the World Cup and European Championship are now also Under 21 European Championship holders; signalling there is no end in sight to their current domination of major football titles.
By defeating Switzerland 2-0 in the final in Denmark, Spain have won the European U21 title a third time, 1 short of Italy, who have won the title a record 4 times. Zaragoza's Ander Herrera headed Spain into a 41st minute lead, latching onto a long range cross from AC Milan's Didac Villa. The win was sealed by Barcelona's Thiago Alcantara, with a quick long range freekick that caught Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer of Basel FC off his line in the 81st minute.

The completion of the tournament will now enable Spanish U21 goalkeeper David De Gea to enter negotiations of a proposed move to



Javi Martínez the captain of Spain lifts the winners trophy after winning their UEFA European Under-21 Championship final on Saturday.

Manchester United, with De Gea's club Atletico Madrid expected to earn around 20 million pounds from the sale. David De Gea was promoted as Atleti's number one keeper from the Atleti youth team, when first choice Sergio Asenjo was injured. De Gea never let the opportunity slip, holding on as the new first choice goalkeeper for two seasons in La Liga. Asenjo still remains at the club, so a replacement for De Gea need not be an imme-

diated task, though Atleti have been linked with a 5 Million Euro move for Villarreal's Xavi Oliva.

Meanwhile, the ongoing saga of Sergio "Kun" Aguero continues with Aguero's representatives due to meet with Serie A's Juventus this week. Juventus have been advanced a large sum of money by club backers for transfer activity, though they do have debts to pay off, and are likely to bid below the

target buy out price of 45 Million Euro. Also against Juventus is the fact that they missed European Champions League qualification, the very reason why Aguero signalled to his club's owner's why he wanted to leave Atletico. Atleti's Tomas Ujfalusi has transferred to Turkish club Galatasaray, Jose Reyes rejected a move to Galatasaray, whilst Diego Forlan has been given the green light to leave Madrid, though Forlan has pub-



Fabregas: The 35 million Euro man

licly stated his preference is not to move.
The other saga of the summer appears to be the intention of Arsenal's Cesc Fabregas to leave London for hometown Barcelona. Barca have reportedly offered 30 Million Euro for Cesc, whilst Arsenal are holding out for 40 Million Euro. The two clubs look to be locked in a stalemate until the final hours of the transfer window, a betting man would guess that 35 Million Euro might be the final sale price.



FIFA President Sepp Blatter faces the throng of cameras.



Prost! Germany coach Silvia Neid gives the thumbs up.

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page

Word Cup Special

With nearly 80% of all tickets nearly sold and an audience of 80 million people expected to tune in the Women's World Cup looks set to capture the imagination

It kicks off with the opening match between Germany and Canada overnight. GW photographer Paul Lau is in Germany to follow the Matilda's prospects and we'll bring you the best of their travels in next week's GW.

The Matildas matches swill be broadcast live on SBS.

Wed June 29th v Brazil (10pm AEST) SBS ONE

Sun July 3rd v Equatorial Guinea (10pm AEST) SBS TWO

Thurs 7th July v Norway (2am AEST) SBS ONE



FIFA President Sepp Blatter with Brazilian star Marta





BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



The announcement of Mehmet Durakovic as new Melbourne Victory coach came as no suprise, but the appointment of Francis Awaritefe as Director of Football was more interesting.

It's seems to have gotten the endorsement of Craig Foster, who must overlook the English non-league Football pedigree of Awaritefe, and the fact that he was primarily a long ball chaser, in determining if he will get Victory playing like Barcelona.

The scandal of the week was Les Murray claiming Lucas Neill undermined Pim Verbeek's instructions prior to the Germany game at last year's World Cup. This has since been denied by Neill. The media has not reported on Verbeek's reaction yet, or the news is slow coming out of Morocco. If it was true, I'm suprised that Verbeek hasn't come out on the front foot to salvage his reputation, as poor as it is, by claiming continual undermining had made his job impossible. Surely if he came in at half-time, after having been asked to leave the room for a few minutes pre-game, and saw all his notes had been wiped off the whiteboard he'd have put two and two together? For all my Verbeek hate, I have to give him credit for using a proper whiteboard marker if this story is true, as people using permanent markers on whiteboards has become a pet hate of mine over the years.



Olyrro Jason Hoffman in action for Richmond against Green Gully earlier this year. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Another item picked up by the mainstream media was the Old Hill Wanderers player sent-off during a VicSoccer game last week, in part because he had a genital piercing. I sincerely hope that checking for such items will not be added to the referee's pre-game ritual of checking the condition of boot studs, shin pad sizes and colour of under-shorts.

A loan spell in the AVPL helped Jason Hoffman find his goalscoring touch, as he scored five goals against Yemen over two-legs as the Olyroos breezed through the first round of Olympic Qualification 7-0. The Joey's also had a good week, with a win over Ivory Coast and a narrow defeat by Brazil leaving

them likely to qualify through their group at the World Cup in Mexico.

Strange to see so many Just For Men ads featuring Luis Figo during Channel Seven's AFL coverage. Figo has the greying market covered, Pele is the voice of erectile disfunction, how long before Advanced Hair finally sign up Zinedine Zidane?

Northcote thrashed Dandenong Thunder, and the lights stayed on. Well it was moved to a daytime kick-off, so that was a given. Sad to see Thunder fall apart recently, their form at the time of their points deduction indicated that they would soon work their way back up the table quickly. Good luck to new coach Chris Taylor in turning things around.



KATSA'S KORNER

With George Katsamboukas

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Bald Headed Club Powerbrokers.

Here we are again, where controversy once again runs supreme with the Local Game...

Where one Player decided to not only "Performance Enhance" his private parts, but he decided to take his newly acquired addition, otherwise known as a "C ock" Ring" out on to the field of play with him.

Let's take it from the Top.

The Player in question's Crown Jewels were somewhat "Injured" during a recent Thirds Game, and the Man In Black, suspecting that the effect of the "Hit" that he took was somewhat over the top, realised that said Player may have possibly had a piercing, around the region of the body, that provides, and receives Happy Ends.

After a fiery exchange between the 2, the Man in Black escorted to Player to the Dressing Rooms, where he clarified that in fact, there was a piercing present on the Player, and he then paraded the Player out on front of full view of the Crowd, whereby he then presented him with a Red Ticket.

I have seen the Video of this incident, and to say that it is unique is an understatement.

It however begs the question as to how the Man in Black can get away

with asking a player to display his "Private Parts", as there is a touch of invasion of privacy associated with such a request, if in fact it did take place.

Over to the House of Darebin we go on this one, I will be more than interested, as will all the Punters to see what action will be taken against the Player, and the Man In Black, if in fact he asked the Player to show him his Piercing.

Back to the Hard Hitting stuff we go, where Les Murray from SBS Fame, has come out with explosive news regarding the World Cup Game between Australia and Germany, where, he claims that pre match, and after Socceroos Gaffer, Pim Verbeek had written up Team formation and Team tactics on the Whiteboard. Lucas Neil asked him to leave the room. And then wiped everything of the White Board, and asked the Players to ignore these instructions, and to follow his.

Neil denies this allegation, who you believe, well you tell me....

Over to the Local scene we go, where the Opa Opa Dandenong Thunder Boys have appointed Chris Taylor as Coach, after the departure of Stuart Munroe, who will take on an assistant coaching position with A-League outfit, Perth Glory.

Munroe came close to securing a couple of VPL Titles with Oakleigh

and Thunder, his eyes will now be firmly planted in getting Perth Glory to perform a touch better than they have in recent years, where their Trophy Cabinet is as empty as my J Walker Cupboard.

Staying with the A-League, Melbourne Victory have given the nod to Caretaker Coach, Mehmet Durakovic to continue on for the next 2 years.

Ex Fellow Team Mate, Francis Awaratefe has been appointed Director of Football, a move that somewhat surprised Fox Sports Journo, Robbie "Bulldog" Slater, as Slater has questioned Awaratefe's credential and experience to take on such a Role.

And last but not least, over to Sunny Queensland we go, Land of the Scantily Clad Meter Maids, where Ex South Melbourne Gun, Paul Trimboli will join his ex Team Mate, Ange Postecoglou at the Brisbane Roar, in the capacity of Football Director.

Until Next Week

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him

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Len Young

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

As the Matildas embark on their World Cup adventure in Germany, perhaps it is time to remember that women have been playing football since the 19th century, if not earlier. Football matches between teams of women are recorded in England and Scotland at various times throughout the nineteenth century and there was a series of 'international' games between teams labelled England and Scotland in 1881. The first of these was played at Easter Road in Edinburgh, the home ground of the Hibernian club. At two of the games, however, including the second one at Shawfield in Glasgow, the players were driven from the field by hooligans in the crowd.

Reporting the launch of the British Ladies Football Club in 1895, the West Australian mentioned that 'A match between ladies was played recently in Melbourne'. I still can't track down local confirmation and there was a strange game around that time played by men dressed as women.

For much of the period since the 1880s relations between the women's and men's games at the institutional level have been antagonistic, at least on the part of the male controllers of the game. Medical and physiological arguments were used to hinder women's participation. There were chauvinist fears that women might bring the game into disrepute or that they might use playing a male sport as part of a broader campaign for social, political and economic equality. Women were to be restricted to assistance with fund raising, serving food in canteens, and acting as volunteers in the running of clubs. They could also be decorative around the clubs and associations by taking part in beauty pageants and dances.

Women's football became much more common in Australia after the

First World War. Teams were formed in Toowoomba in 1921 and a Brisbane Association was set up that year. North Brisbane beat South Brisbane two-nil in 1925 in front of a crowd of about 10,000. In 1929 Speer's Point beat Weston to win the New South Wales state title under lights at the Sydney Sports Ground. Commercial firms sponsored women's teams in Lithgow. A ban on the use of English league grounds by the Football Association was a setback to the women's game generally, but soon after the Second World War the game revived strongly.

In Western Australia two country women's teams took part in an exhibition game at the Margaret River Carnival on 16 August 1946. A pioneering women's game is reported in Tasmania in 1959. In South Australia women's matches are recorded in the 1950s and 1960s, including one between Elizabeth Vale and Adelaide Fijians, and there was a short-lived attempt to set up a state organisation there in 1971. In Queensland, the Brisbane competition had been running since the early or mid-1960s. In New South Wales, the Metropolitan Ladies' Soccer Association was set up in the 1960s, with Mrs Pat O'Connor as secretary. She and her husband Joe and son Kirk had arrived from England in 1963 and became involved with St George Budapest. She captained the ladies team and was heavily involved with the juniors, both male and female. The St George ladies played for seven years undefeated and in the 1972 season scored 206 goals and conceded none. By 1973 the Metropolitan Ladies Soccer Association had a 12-team league.

Pioneers of the game in Victoria included Betty Hoar, player, manager, administrator and keen supporter, who is recognised in the Roll of Honour of the Australian Football Hall of Fame, and was an inaugural inductee

The early history of the women's game in Australia



The 'blues' in Queensland in 1925. Source: Elaine Watson, Australian Women's Soccer: The First Twenty Years, n. p.: Australian Women's Soccer Association, 1994, p. 7.



Theresa Jones flies through the air. She was keeper for the Australian women's team for eight years. Source: Dandenong Journal. Photo: Stuart Penberthy.

into the Football Federation Victoria (FFV) Hall of Fame in 2010. She, Janette Melvin and Theresa Deas (née Jones), who was keeper for the national team for eight years, are recognised in trophies awarded to the best junior and youth female players by the FFV. Anne McPhee and her daughter Janine were highly influential in promoting the women's game when it did not have the profile it has

and deserves today. Janette Melvin was a state coach at junior and senior levels, as was another Victorian player, Shona Bass, who also represented Australia.

Women took the lead in establishing a formal national football championship in 1974. The first women's national competition took place in Sydney in August 1974, with five states



Irene Sneyd, Betty Hoar, Elaine Watson, Allan Hampton, Don Balmain, members of the executive of the Australian Women's Soccer Association in 1983. Elaine Watson, Australian Women's Soccer: The First Twenty Years, n. p.: Australian Women's Soccer Association, 1994, p. 26.



St George Ladies practising. Sydney Morning Herald, 8 June 1973.

taking part. New South Wales won the competition, defeating Northern New South Wales in the final. By 1981 nine teams were taking part and a junior competition was begun in 1985. The driving forces in the early years of the Australian Women's Soccer Association (AWSA) included Elaine Watson and Frank Clarke from Queensland, Pat O'Connor from New South Wales and Dr Oscar Mate from Western Australia. Betty Hoar was highly influential south of the Murray.

The AWSA grew out of the first championship in 1974. The association celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1999 and claimed 58 000 registered players and an income of \$1.5m at that date. Elaine Watson, president of the AWSA, estimated that by 1978 there were 252 senior teams with around 4500 players nationally and 14,500 juniors, of whom 9,000 came from New South Wales.

Australian women's teams played un-

official matches against New Zealand from the late 1960s onwards. In 1978 an Australian team drawn primarily from New South Wales and Western Australia took part in what was billed as a World Women's Invitational tournament in Taipei. This tournament evolved into an unofficial world championship, which eventually led to pressure on FIFA to recognise the women's game and eventually to institute official world championships for women under FIFA auspices. What are now regarded as the first official Australian international matches were also against New Zealand when a series of three games were contested in Sydney and Brisbane in October 1979.

In a future Blast I will look more closely at the recent history of the women's game in Australia, though I am very conscious that Melissa Barbieri, the Matildas goalkeeper and captain, wants women to be recognised as footballers, not women footballers.



Melissa Barbieri in action for Melbourne Victory. Photo: Roy Hay. National Football Museum, Preston England. Photo: Roy Hay.



Advertisement for a women's football match in England in 1895, though it was by no means the first as claimed. Source: National Football Museum, Preston England. Photo: Roy Hay.



Having wrapped up the Copa Libertadores title, “O Peixe” or Santos on Wednesday have secured an exciting second half to the season alongside talented Brazilian youngsters Neymar and Paulo Henrique Ganso are already eyeing off their upcoming challenges.

Success in the Copa Libertadores means consistency now on in the Brasileirão, the national club championship.

Coach Muricy Ramalho forwarded a message to Barcelona about the possible showdown to be played later in the year for the World Club tournament starting on the 8th of December in Japan after a few years held in the United Arab Emirates.

Ganso helped set up Neymar’s goal that opened the way for Santos’ 2-1 victory over Uruguay’s Peñarol on Wednesday, giving the Brazilian club its third title in the Latin American competition, the first since Pelé was its biggest star in the 1960s.

Last Thursday meant the pair travelled to Argentina to join the Brazilian squad straight away after their Libertadores victory for the upcoming Copa América, where the Seleção will be aiming for a third straight victory in the continental championship.

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“It’s time to go after my third South American title,” said the 19-year-old Neymar, who earlier this year led Brazil to the continental under-20 title.

Just imagine these talented young Brazilians facing the might of European champion Barcelona in the Club World Cup.

“We still have a few months to go before we get there, but it’s going to be interesting,” Neymar said.

Great names like the aforementioned Pelé, Clodoaldo and Coutinho have praised Neymar and Paulo Henrique Ganso for their stellar performances in the Copa Santander Libertadores, reaching out of the club’s glorious shadow past.

The club nicknamed “O’Peixe” (because of their successes between 1966 and 1979) had Clodoaldo arrived home at six in the morning to wake up delighted with the overnight result.

Delighted and grateful for the youngsters to have brought back home the coveted Copa Libertadores, their third after 48 years.

The success of Neymar is a sign of two exceptional seasons. Since his debut in 2009, he has netted 59 goals with the whites and has left a trail of destruction on opposing defenders.

Coutinho, another idol at the club said in an interview after the match,

Young Guns Fire Santos To Copa Glory



Santos wins the Copa Libertadores for the first time since the Pele era. The great man himself was on hand to present the trophy. Now bring on Barcelona!!

“his family lives on the outskirts of the city (São Paulo) in the port of Santos and near my place which is close to the training complex so I know him from a young age”, he said on Neymar.

The point Coutinho raises is Neymar’s ability to understand and feel what it is to be brought up in a club, working hard and maturing - the exact opposite its European counterparts try to instigate seldom with huge sums of money to be lured away.

Coutinho also raises his disagreement in comparisons to Lionel Messi or to Pelé, Diego Maradona and the likes. The 45 million euro tag is also not to be a sum of much importance and even if Chelsea or Real Madrid are after him, what matters are his own values, growing from his child-like mistakes, keep working hard on his potential gifts on the pitch, remain humble and to love the club that has brought him right to the very top.

Santos invested enough money to keep Neymar at the club and feel they have not made the wrong decision. His image and personality has also transformed him into a million-dollar business.

He is according to marketing research studies, as popular to the likes of Robinho, Ronaldinho and Kaká. The many hairstyles and looks made him even wrongly, a bigger star than the Copa Libertadores final itself against Peñarol.

Santos coach Muricy Ramalho is hoping both Neymar and Ganso choose to stay with Santos for an encounter with the likes of Lionel Messi, even though it will be hard for both club and player to resist the huge transfer offers from some of Europe’s biggest clubs.

“It will be difficult to play against Barcelona even with these two guys in the team, imagine without them,” he said.

Since emerging as teenagers a couple of years ago, Neymar and Ganso helped the club win the Brazilian Cup in 2009 and back-to-back São Paulo state championships in 2010 and ’11. The Copa Libertadores was the major title missing.

Ganso returned to the starting line-up on Wednesday after more than a month sidelined because of a right thigh muscle injury. He started the play that led to Neymar’s goal with a nifty back-heel pass to midfielder Arouca, who then found Neymar inside the area.

Santos became known for the first time because of Pelé, and more recently it exported young talents such as Robinho and Diego to top teams across the world. The team led by Robinho in 2003 lost the Copa Libertadores final to Boca Ju-

niors of Argentina. “We have to thank these young guys for giving us this title,” Pelé said, with tears in his eyes as the players celebrated around him.

Meanwhile at the other end, a proud Peñarol coach in Diego Aguirre rued the goal his team allowed early in the second half for a lack of concentration.

He showed resilience in his post-match speeches and was still proud of the Uruguayan club’s performance in Wednesday’s second leg of the Copa Libertadores final, beaten 2-1 by Santos.

Aguirre said Peñarol played well throughout the match at Pacaembu Stadium, but was always going to struggle after falling behind to Neymar’s 47th-minute opener.

Aguirre was trying to win his second Copa Libertadores title, the first as a coach. He was the hero of the team’s triumph in 1987, scoring the winner in the final minute of extra time against America de Cali of Colombia.

Santos won 2-1 on aggregate—the first leg in Montevideo ended scoreless—to claim its third Copa Libertadores title, and the first since Pelé led the team in the early 1960s.

“Allowing the goal early in the second half was what killed us,” Peñarol’s Argentine forward Alejandro Martinuccio said.

Peñarol was trying to win its sixth title. It won the first two Copa Libertadores in 1960 and ’61 and added victories in ’66 and ’82 before the dramatic win over America de Cali.

But after that title, Peñarol didn’t play a significant role in South American football until the team’s impressive campaign this year, when it eliminated traditionally strong teams like Vélez Sarsfield of Argentina, Universidad Católica of Chile and defending Copa Libertadores champion Internacional of Brazil.

Some players still celebrated this year’s runner-up finish - mostly a side composed of players snapped up abroad, players winding up their careers back home, players trusted by Aguirre or players loaned back at the club after spells elsewhere. “It has a lot of value,” midfielder Luis Aguiar said. “It was a spectacular group, a group of friends. It’s very important to have teammates who give their best on the field.”



ECUADOR
Jaime Ayoví, goalscorer from Mexican club Pachuca has pulled out of the Copa América which starts next week.

The Ecuadorean FA (FEF) confirmed on Saturday his injury due to a punctured lung had not healed in time for the continental tournament.

Also last year’s Ecuadorean top league scorer, Ayoví has been replaced by Edson Montaño who plays in the Belgian league with Ghent.

To highlight a few of Montaño’s credentials, he starred as Ecuador’s top scorer in this year’s under-20 qualification campaign for the FIFA U20 World Cup to be staged in a few months time in Colombia.

The Ecuadorians remain at camp in Quito where Colombian coach Reinaldo Rueda has done intense training. This injury news also comes in light of the squad’s first drop-out in Deportivo Quito midfielder Luis Fernando Saritama.



CHILE
Whilst an Audi and a Lamborghini caused havoc and amazement for visitors during camp at the Juan Pinto Durán complex in Santiago, coach Claudio Borghi was left satisfied with the performance of his team in the friendly last Friday local time away in Asunción to Paraguay.

The scoreless draw gave the side a much-needed test in time for their debut next week.

Universidad Católica coach Juan Antonio Pizzi is likely to drift himself from the club as he seeks options to return home to Argentina.

Pizzi has reached terms with Rosario Central back home and whilst the club currently sits in the second tier of professional football, it was family reasons that drove him to such a decision. Católica also has confirmed the departure of left back Juan Eluchans.

Colo-Colo on the other hand are out to make big surprises come this second half of the year. Star international forward Luis Jiménez who has wound up at Cesena in Italy’s Serie A as the club’s leading goalscorer is under the eye at the Chilean club giants.

“El Mago” or the magician as nicknamed last Friday reached his final cease agreement with Ternana in the Serie B according to article 17 of FIFA’s regulations for which he should now look abroad as his doors has shut to continue in Italy.

In a way similar to local A-League clubs trying to lure Harry Kewell back home, the one difference is that Colo-Colo through its various financial entities that run the football club shall have to pay a 2 million euro clause according to FIFA rules as a fine for Jiménez’s Serie



Mexico captured the Gold Cup on Saturday after defeating the USA 4-2 in front of over 90,000 fans.

A exit.

His reasons state as “family issues” his main drive in returning home and fill in the space left by Cristóbal Jorquera who has flown off to Genoa, also in Italy’s Serie A although there are races for Jiménez’s signature across Europe including his countryman Arturo Vidal’s Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga and La Liga clubs Villarreal and Atlético Madrid.



ARGENTINA
Meanwhile River Plate goes through hell pretty much in its eleventh hour, an official document was released from the club whilst hundreds of furious River Plate fans tried to storm the Monumental stadium last Thursday, a day after their team moved to the brink of relegation for the first time in the 110-year existence.

River, record 33 times league champions, lost 2-0 against Nacional B (second division) side Belgrano in Cordoba on Wednesday in the first leg of a playoff. They need to finish level on aggregate to stay in the top flight.

Fans clad in River’s red and white colours screamed insults at players and club president Daniel Passarella and demanded the head of coach Juan José López. They squared up to police outside the empty stadium and also hurled insults at reporters.

After flying back from Cordoba on Thursday, River headed straight for Hindu rugby club outside the capital looking for quiet to prepare for Sunday’s home second leg (1810 GMT).

About 500 fans also gathered outside Hindu to vent their anger at what they perceive to be a lack of commitment from the players. Some fans carried a banner that read: “Kill or die”.

Wednesday’s match was interrupted for 20 minutes after River fans broke through perimeter fencing and onto the pitch to remonstrate with their own team’s players and demand more effort after they had fallen two goals behind.

River are paying for years of mismanagement on and off the pitch which has left them with a low three-season points average with which relegation is decided in Argentina’s top flight.

Passarella, widely criticised for not going to Cordoba, was at rugby club headquarters Hindu with the squad while the club issued a statement saying he would give a news conference next week to explain how the administration his board succeeded 18 months ago was re-

sponsible for the club’s disastrous state.

GOLD CUP

West Ham winger Pablo Barrera scored twice as Mexico rallied to beat the United States 4-2 and claim its second consecutive Gold Cup title on Saturday.

Andrés Guardado and Giovani Dos Santos also scored for Mexico, which has now won the tournament six times.

Manchester United striker Javier Hernández, who led this year’s Gold Cup with seven goals for Mexico, was named the tournament’s most valuable player.

The United States got off to a bright start as Michael Bradley headed in Freddy Adu’s corner in the 8th minute and Landon Donovan fired a shot into the net in the 23rd for a 2-0 lead.

Barrera scored his first when he sent the ball just inside the right post in the 29th minute and Guardado equalized for Mexico seven minutes later after a Dos Santos pass from the right side of the area deflected off defender Eric Lichaj, setting him up from five yards out. Barrera gave Mexico the lead in the 50th minute when he slipped a shot beneath the right hand of diving U.S. goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Dos Santos, who spent the second half of the just-completed European season on loan from Tottenham at Racing Santander, sealed the win in the 76th minute by lofting the ball over Lichaj into an open net. The win qualifies Mexico for the 2013 Confederations Cup, an international preview tournament ahead of the World Cup in Brazil the following year.

The announced attendance of 93,420 was the largest for a Gold Cup match in the United States, but the vast majority of the crowd was supporting Mexico.

Guardado played on a slightly sprained left ankle after being injured in Mexico’s 2-0 semifinal victory over Honduras on Wednesday.

COPA AMERICA matches this coming week:

Group A matches

July 1: Argentina v Bolivia - La Plata

July 2: Colombia v Costa Rica - Jujuy

Group B matches

July 3: Brazil v Venezuela - La Plata

July 3: Paraguay v Ecuador - Santa Fé

Group C matches

July 4: Uruguay v Peru - San Juan

July 4: Chile v Mexico - San Juan



Peter Tsekenis's Sydney Olympic side look to be running away with the NSW Premiership after defeating their nearest rivals Sutherland 2-1 at Belmore on Saturday evening. Details of that game can be found below.

Sydney United took advantage of Sutherland's lapse to join the men from the Shire in second place by defeating Rockdale City 2-1 away from home. The Croatian-backed club have a game in hand, as they are yet to play their washed out Round 12 game against Manly United. In Saturday's only other match, Bonnyrigg drew 1-1 at home to Bankstown City; a disappointing result for the hosts which does, however, keep them in the top five.

Sunday's action saw the South Coast Wolves complete a double over APIA-Leichhardt, with Saso Petrovski scoring the winner for his home-town club in injury time. Parramatta upset Blacktown City 1-0 at the latter's Lily Homes Stadium, while Manly bounced back from last week's defeat to post an important 3-1 win over Marconi.

Sydney Olympic 2-1 Sutherland Sharks

In a much-anticipated clash, the competition leaders scored at the death to give themselves a comfortable and perhaps unassailable seven-point buffer in the league.

Both sides went into the game below full strength, with Sutherland missing their veteran captain George Souris while Olympic were dealing with the inevitable loss of star striker Alex Smith, who will be on the books of Gold Coast United



After pulling level with Sunshine Coast at the top of the table last weekend Brisbane Strikers had the chance to go three points clear on Saturday night. Hosting Bundaberg Spirit at Perry Park the three points looked likely and the home side didn't fail to deliver, handing out a 5-1 thrashing as they advanced to the summit of the QSL.

Bundaberg have proved to be a solid team this year and despite the margin of defeat the Spirit had their chances to cause trouble for Brisbane.

The earliest chance arrived practically straight from kick-off, Bundaberg captain Brett Kitching bursting through midfield before unleashing a shot from the edge of the area that Strikers' keeper Brendan White could only parry. The ball then fell to Shane Youngberry but with the goal at his mercy he couldn't find the net and Brisbane were left relieved not to have fallen a goal behind inside the opening minute.

Bundaberg then had another early chance, a defensive mistake allowing Kitching to play in Elliott Causier but he dragged his shot wide.

After surviving those early scares Brisbane began to assert themselves and dominated play for the next fifteen minutes.

That dominance ultimately culmi-

Olympic Surge Clear In Summit Battle

for the next A-League season.

Understandably, matters were tense in the opening minutes. Robbie Mileski had the first chance of note for the hosts, scything his way through on the left only to have his shot take a deflection on its way through to Sharks gloveman Nathan Denham.

Soon afterwards it was the turn of Olympic hero Chris Triantis, who forced his way past former teammate Nick Tsattalios and fired at goal with his impressive right foot, only to send the shot marginally wide.

Olympic's most dangerous players combined well in the 27th minute: Triantis was the provider this time, sending in a cross which Mileski could only send straight at Denham. A few minutes later it was Ibrahim Haydar, a replacement at right-back for the injured Emmanuel Giannaros, who should have done better after getting his head to a Phil Makrys free kick.

The visitors had barely threatened in the first period, but a few minutes before the interval Panny Nikas did at least force Paul Henderson into action, letting fly at the Olympic goal from just beyond the halfway line.

Olympic continued their dominance in the second period. Another powerful run by Mileski on the left ended with a double chance, Denham parrying the former Bankstown man's shot back to him before gathering the rebound.

On 59 minutes Triantis came to life again, cleverly working space for himself on the right and very nearly curling the ball beyond Denham at the near post. The hosts were coming ever closer.

The game opened up nicely as the second period passed its midway point. Sam Awad, for Sutherland, and Triantis for the hosts both had half-chances somewhat fortuitously snuffed out, and just as the game



FNSW action as Aman Hadid celebrates scoring for Bankstown in the 1-1 draw against Bonnyrigg White Eagles. Photos: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

looked to be headed for a scoreless draw despite all the goalmouth action, the hosts went in front.

After a clumsy challenge by Jim Bakis on Makrys, which resulted in a brief all-in brawl, Olympic made the free kick count, Brett Studman nodding Jerry Kalouris's well-flighted cross home.

Yet the lead was short-lived. After a missed chance for Triantis, Nick Stavroulakis forced a Sutherland

corner, from which the ball was played short to Tsattalios. The former Sydney FC man left two Olympic defenders in his wake with a fine turn, before firing in a superb equalizer from a tight angle.

Matthew Bailey almost gave Sutherland an unlikely second soon afterwards, but it quickly became clear that Olympic were the hungrier side in the final minutes.

Two minutes into injury time their

determination was rewarded: after Triantis won an Olympic corner with an enterprising run, some penalty-box pinball saw the ball break to Mileski, who thundered home a right-footed volley to give Peter Tsekenis's side all three points. A vital win which may just have clinched the Premiership for Olympic.

Strikers Win in 5-1 Masterclass



Fire's Jason Hicks gets away from FNQ Alex Ploughman. Photo: ROBYN WOODALL

Thurtell deceiving two defenders near the touchline before playing a square pass the again found Angus inside the Bundaberg penalty area and just as before he made no mistakes, slotting the ball into the net.

At 5-0 down it was well and truly over for Bundaberg, but the visitors retained their pride as they remained focused and continued their efforts in defence. Playing compactly and on the break the Spirit were able to hold off conceding another and perhaps deservedly got a goal back for

themselves in the 86th minute.

Youngberry was presented with the opportunity to partially make up for his early howler when, whilst chasing a long ball with Mottin the Brisbane defender seemingly tripped on his own feet and fell to the turf. With Mottin in a heap Youngberry had only Brendan White to beat and a heavy touch as he neared the keeper turned to good fortune as the ball deceived them both and trickled into the net.

Saturday's other match took place

in Mackay as the Miners hosted NQ Razorbacks. With both sides in finals contention it was always going to be a hard fought match and despite leading 2-0 with fifteen minutes to go the Razorbacks weren't able to hold on for what would have been an extremely valuable three points.

Miners' in-form strike weapon Clarke Bradford gave the home side hope with a goal in the 83rd minute before Brett Neeve equalised with only three minutes remaining.

NSW Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 14: FIRST GRADE: Sydney Olympic 2 (Brett Studman 76m Robert Mileski 92m) Sutherland Sharks 1 (Nikolas Tsattalios 80m), Rockdale City Suns 1 (Sash Tirovski 55m) Sydney United 2 (Elsid Barkhousir 71m Luka Glavas 81m), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Bradley Boardman 70m) Bankstown City 1 (Aman Hadid 17m), Blacktown City FC 0 Parramatta FC 1 (Luke Grima 48m), South Coast Wolves 2 (Mark Picciolini 76m Saso Petrovski 91m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Wand Jajaw 11m), Manly United FC 3 (Michael Daly 35m Justin Hayward 82m Scott Balderson 89m) Marconi Stallions 1 (Gosue Sama 6m).

GRADE 20: Sydney Olympic 1 Sutherland Sharks 0, Rockdale City Suns 4 Sydney United 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Bankstown City 3. Blacktown City FC 4 Parramatta FC 1, South Coast Wolves 4 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3, Manly United FC 0 Marconi Stallions 1.

GRADE 18: Sydney Olympic 3 Sutherland Sharks 0, Rockdale City Suns 2 Sydney United 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Bankstown City 0, Blacktown City FC 5 Parramatta FC 1, Manly United FC 1 Marconi Stallions 2.

Next Round

Parramatta FC vs Sutherland Sharks
Melita Stadium 7:00 PM Sat 2/Jul

Sydney Olympic vs Manly United FC
Belmore Sports Ground 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul

Bankstown City vs South Coast Wolves
Jensen Park 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul

APIA Leichhardt vs Blacktown City
Lambert Park 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul

Marconi Stallions vs Rockdale CitySuns
Marconi Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul

Sydney Utd vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Sydney United Sports 4:00 PM Sun 3/Jul

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	14	10	2	2	26	13	13	32
2 Sydney United	13	7	2	4	24	14	10	25
3 Sutherland	14	7	3	4	21	17	4	25
4 Bonnyrigg WE	14	6	3	5	21	15	6	23
5 Blacktown City	14	6	6	2	17	13	4	20
6 Marconi Stallions	14	5	5	4	17	13	4	19
7 Manly United FC	13	4	4	5	21	26	-5	17
8 Bankstown City	14	4	7	3	17	22	-5	15
9 Rockdale City	13	4	7	2	12	18	-6	14
10 APIA Leichhardt	13	3	6	4	16	22	-6	13
11 South Coast	13	4	8	1	15	23	-8	13
12 Parramatta FC	13	2	9	2	12	23	-11	8

Queensland Results

NQ Razorbacks 4 (Edwards 19, Grossman 49, Mayberry 52, Crowley 87) v Gold Coast Stars 3 (Hilton 33, McCormick 39, Costello 80)

Bundaberg Spirit 0 v Whitsunday Miners 2 (Bradford 35,43)

Capricorn Cougars 1 (Stross 59) v Brisbane Strikers 5 (Burke 12,64,84 Thurtell 45, DiSipio 82)

FNQ Bulls 4 (Coppen 2, Rusch 6, DeNittis 24, Ruiz 61) v Qld Academy Sport 2 (Borello 22, Dougall 85)

Youth
Gympie 0 v Gold Coast 2
Southern Cross 1 v Sunshine Coast Fire 2
Qld Academy Sport 1 v Sunshine Coast 3

Next Round

Bundaberg Spirit v QAS
Sat 02-July 7:00pm

Capricorn Cougars v FNQ Bulls
Sat 02-July 7:00pm

NQ Razorbacks v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 02-July 7:00pm

Gold Coast Stars v Sunshine Coast FC
Sun 03-July 2:00pm

Whitsunday Miners v BYE

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Strikers	12	9	0	3	38	12	26	27
2 Sunshine Coast FC	11	7	3	1	35	9	26	24
3 Whitsunday Miners	12	5	4	3	21	16	5	19
4 Gold Coast Stars	11	5	3	3	22	17	5	18
5 FNQ Bulls	12	5	3	4	25	21	4	18
6 QLD AoS	13	4	5	4	24	22	2	17
7 NQ Razorbacks	12	4	4	4	28	21	7	16
8 Bundaberg Spirit	11	1	1	9	9	40	-31	4
9 Capricorn Cougars	12	0	3	9	10	54	-44	3

The result leaves the two sides in fourth and fifth place on the table, the finals race delicately poised as the season nears the business end of things.

Taroona’s giant-killing Cup act



Walter Pless

No wonder I can never win the Pools.

My predictions for this weekend’s cup and league matches so far stand at 33 per cent correct.

I was way off the mark with the Burnie United versus Taroona quarterfinal tie in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy competition.

Taroona scored a shock 3-1 away win at Montello. David Hoppitt and Toby Dove scored a goal apiece for the southerners, but what really rubbed salt into Burnie’s wounds was the fact that Burnie old boy Hugo Luttmr also netted for the visitors.

The match at Valley Road went to plan with Devonport City downing Glenorchy Knights 2-1.

Will Roberts gave the Knights the lead within 5 minutes of the start and the visitors maintained their advantage until the half-time break.

Two goals by Devonport, both from headers after corners, sent Devonport into the semi-finals. Chris McKenna and Kieran Mulraney were the marksmen.

Olympia Warriors continued their excellent form in the cup by beating Tilford Zebras 2-1 at Warrior Park on Saturday night to consign their league form to the rubbish bin. Olympia are second-last in the league and the Zebras are second.

Frank Mainella, preferred in goal for



New Town Eagles' Adam McKeown tries to get in a shot against Clarence United. WALTER PLESS

Zebras ahead of Troy Kaden, kept his side in the game in the opening half with marvellous saves against Chris Kumpulainen and Domhnal Corbett.

But, four minutes before the interval, Corbett hopefully kicked the ball over his head and, with Mainella off his line, the ball bounced and ended up in the net to give Olympia a 1-0 lead at the break.

Rickey Self’s half-volley from Andrew Telega’s cross in the 70th minute made it 1-1.

Olympia’s fly-in from Melbourne, Joshua Colosimo, netted the winner in the 76th minute. Lee Mason played the ball wide to the left for Colosimo, whose cross deceived Mainella and ended up in the net off the base of the far post.

“It was the artificial surface that

confused me,” said Mainella. “On grass, the ball would have gone past the far post, but it spun on this surface and hit the post and spun over the line.

Zebras’ central defender, Ryan Smith, concurred with Mainella’s view of the circumstances of the goal afterwards.

Watching the game was Olympia’s latest signing, 20-year-old goalkeeper Jason Voss, who has returned from Queensland. Voss’s previous club was Tilford Zebras, the club he joined from Kingborough Lions United.

With Michael McKenna reportedly requiring surgery on an injury, Olympia now has Robert Kay, Justin Farrugia and Voss as their goalkeep-

ers.

The remaining quarterfinal tie was scheduled for Sunday at the neutral venue of Ulverstone, where Northern Rangers clash with South Hobart.

In the only Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League match played on Saturday, third-placed Clarence United drew 1-1 with fourth-ranked New Town Eagles at Wentworth Park.

Aaron Browning gave Clarence the lead in the 9th minute, his shot going in off the underside of the crossbar.

Adam McKeown equalised two minutes after the resumption.

Clarence had the better of the first half and of the closing minutes, but Eagles produced a much better performance in the second half and

Next Round	
Southern Premier League	
Friday 1st July 2011	
Tilford Zebras v Olympia FC	
KGV Park 08:00 PM	
Saturday 2nd July 2011	
New Town Eagles v Kingborough Lions	
Clare Street 02:30 PM	
Clarence United v Beachside FC	
Wentworth Park 2 06:30 PM	
Sunday 3rd July 2011	
South Hobart FC v Glenorchy Knights	
South Hobart 02:30 PM	
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup - Quarter Finals	
Saturday 2nd July 2011	
Ulverstone v Burnie United	
Ulverstone Showgrounds 02:30 PM	
Prospect Knights v Northern Rangers	
Prospect Park 02:30 PM	
Riverside Olympic v Somerset	
Windsor Park 02:30 PM	
Launceston City v Launceston United	
Mitsubishi Park 02:30 PM	
Devonport City Bye	

probably deserved a share of the points in new coach Stephen Pitchford’s first game in charge.

“I thought it was a great game by our side,” said Pitchford. “They came back after an early knock-back and came out in the second half and really took the game to Clarence.

“Both sides had chances in the second half. The intensity, to me, was way above games in recent times.

“I’m really pleased with the way the boys stuck to the game plan.”

The only Southern League One game ended in turmoil with the referee abandoning the game after 87 minutes, with second-placed Metro leading first-placed Hobart United 3-1 at North Chigwell.

Hobart United received 7 yellow cards and two red cards before the referee called the game off because a player who had been sent off refused to move off the substitutes’ bench.

Tasmania Results	
Southern Premier League	
Clarence United 1 New Town Eagles 1	
Beachside FC 1 Tilford Zebras 6	
Milan Lakoseljac Cup Results	
Northern Rangers 1 South Hobart 6	
Olympia FC Warriors 2 Tilford Zebras 1	
Devonport City 2 Glenorchy Knights 1	
Burnie United 1 Taroona 3	

Northern Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Devonport City	11	9	0	2	38	18	27			
Northern Rangers	11	8	1	2	27	10	25			
Prospect Knights	10	8	1	1	26	9	25			
Ulverstone	10	6	2	2	26	16	20			
Riverside Olympic	11	4	2	5	19	22	14			
Launceston City	11	3	3	5	16	22	12			
Burnie United	10	3	0	7	17	22	9			
Somerset	11	2	1	8	18	31	7			
Launceston United	11	0	0	11	15	52	0			

Southern Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
South Hobart FC	15	12	3	0	54	15	39			
Tilford Zebras	14	7	4	3	37	27	25			
Clarence United	14	6	5	3	24	27	23			
New Town Eagles	14	6	4	4	28	25	22			
Kingborough Lions	15	7	0	8	30	36	21			
Glenorchy Knights	14	3	4	7	21	31	13			
Olympia FC	15	2	3	10	23	40	9			
Beachside FC	13	1	3	9	15	31	6			

An incident of violent conduct by one player against another was then noted by the assistant referee, who called the referee’s attention to the incident, and the referee then called off the game.

This was followed by a violent melee on the pitch involving players and spectators and police had to be called.

The referee and his assistant were escorted from the field by Metro officials.

The situation had calmed down by the time police arrived and there were, reportedly, no arrests.



Luca Cetta

MetroStars defeated Adelaide Blue Eagles 2-0 in Round 12 of the Super League at TK Shutter Reserve on Saturday to keep in-touch with league leaders Adelaide City.

Michael Matricciani broke the deadlock just after the hour-mark and Francesco Monterosso doubled the advantage in the 73rd minute to give the ‘Stars three crucial points against the side one place below them on the ladder, as they now prepare for City next Monday night.

MetroStars goalkeeper Dan Godley said they knew Blue Eagles would be a tough nut to crack.

“They did not threaten our goal too much,” noted the shot-stopper.

“However, we knew until the first goal arrived they would be difficult to break down. At half time we were told to continue with the game plan, which we felt would be able to defeat them.”

“A big game next week but we want to win the game for the game, not the opponent. They (Adelaide City) would need to trip up again even if we do beat them, so we just want to put some pressure on them.”

Blue Eagles Coach Vojo Gluscevic felt his side put in plenty of effort but were not rewarded at the final whistle.

“We stopped Metro from playing the ball around,” he said.

“They could only play long balls, especially in the first half and from that we could play on the counter-attack. We had a few chances but could not finish.”

A high-intensity game of few clear-cut opportunities saw Scott Tunbridge have a double chance 20 minutes in but was denied each time by Blue Eagles goalkeeper Gino De Lucia. Monterosso was the next to try his luck, but his attempted chip ended

MetroStars keep pressure on Adelaide City



Cambeltown City keeper Les Pogliacomini pulls off a save from Galaxy’s Tom Briscoe’s free kick. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

on the roof of the net.

Tunbridge and De Lucia continued their duel, as the veteran custodian got out quickly to deny the striker with his legs when one-on-one.

Blue Eagles struggled to make inroads into Metro’s unyielding defence and could only muster long-range efforts, failing to seriously trouble Godley.

The second half began in much the same vein as the first with little to separate the two sides, until Matricciani’s 12th strike of the campaign in the 62nd minute. Receiving the ball just inside the box on the left-hand side, he proceeded to curl a wonderful finish into the far corner, giving De Lucia no chance.

Blue Eagles striker Nicholas Bucco headed over the bar, with Godley’s goal-kick falling at the youngster’s feet, but he shot low at the recovering shot-stopper.

MetroStars went down the other end to extend the lead, as a succession of

passes played in Monterosso, whose shot swept past De Lucia into the far corner to put the game beyond the visitors.

Blue Eagles continued to press, with Godley forced into a point-blank save from a Kym Harris effort.

Best on ground for the victors were Lee Robertson, Adam van Domelle and goal-scorer Matricciani, while for Blue Eagles it was Tony Hatzis, joined by Chris Atsikbasis and Damian Di Mella.

Modbury gave Adelaide City a scare in their goal-fest at Jet Park on Friday night. The hosts led 3-2 at half-time but the Champions ran out eventual 5-3 winners. Ricardo Da Silva grabbed all five City goals. Rhys Devlin, Todd McSorely, Adrian Giacomelli scored for Modbury.

The outstanding Jets players were Anthony Solagna, Matt Kelly and Giacomelli. Joining Da Silva on the Adelaide City list were Eli Vlassis and Nicky Budin.

Calvin Mbarga scored a second half

double as Western Strikers defeated Raiders 2-1 at the Croatian Sports Centre on Saturday. Mimi Saric gave the hosts the lead but Mbarga proved the difference between the two sides.

The best three for the defeated Raiders were Darius Panuzzo, Matthew Stokes and Adam Harris. For Strikers, Chahine Noujaim, Callam Flanagan and Michele La Stella were terrific.

Adelaide Galaxy added to Campbelltown’s woes with a 3-1 victory at Con Makris Park on Saturday. Shaun McGreevy scored a double within 15 minutes only for Campbelltown player-coach Jason Trimboli to make it interesting with the final whistle approaching. Steven Kidd made sure of the points in stoppage time.

Kodi Madeley, McGreevy and John Fusco were Galaxy’s top trio, while Campbelltown captain Michael D’Alosio led from the front and was joined by William Russell and Les Pogliacomini.

Next Round	
Western Strikers vs Adelaide Galaxy	
Carnegie Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Para Hills	
Marden Sports Complex 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Campbelltown vs Modbury	
Steve Woodcock Sports Ctr 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Croydon vs Raiders	
Polonia Reserve 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul	
Adelaide City vs Metro Stars	
Adelaide City Park 7:30 PM Mon 4/Jul	

Para Hills managed to salvage a 1-1 draw against Croydon at The Pad-docks on Saturday. Luke Klimek gave the Kings a half-time advantage but Russell Clayton ensured the points were shared midway through the second half.

Best on ground for the hosts were Shane Tobias, Alex Mullen and Clayton. Frank Violi was joined by captain Michael Papacharalambous and goal-scorer Klimek as Croydon’s exceptional players.

FFSA Results	
Modbury 3 (Rhys Devlin, Todd McSorely, Adrian Giacomelli) v Adelaide City 5 (Ricardo Da Silva 5) (HT 3-2)	
Best – Modbury: Anthony Solagna, Matt Kelly, Adrian Giacomelli; Adelaide City: Ricardo Da Silva, Eli Vlassis, Nicky Budin	
Reserves – Modbury v Adelaide City	
U19 – Modbury 1 v Adelaide City 0	
MetroStars 2 (Michael Matricciani, Francesco Monterosso) v Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 (HT 0-0)	
Best – MetroStars: Lee Robertson, Adam van Domelle, Michael Matricciani; Adelaide Blue Eagles: Tony Hatzis, Chris Atsikbasis, Damian Di Mella	
Reserves – MetroStars 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 0	
U19 – MetroStars 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 1	
Raiders 1 (Mimi Saric) v Western Strikers 2 (Calvin Mbarga 2) (HT 1-0)	
Best – Raiders: Darius Panuzzo, Matthew Stokes, Adam Harris; Western Strikers: Chahine Noujaim, Callam Flanagan, Michele La Stella	
Reserves – Raiders 2 v Western Strikers 6	
U19 – Raiders 0 v Western Strikers 3	
Adelaide Galaxy 3 (Shaun McGreevy 2, Steven Kidd) v Campbelltown City 1 (Jason Trimboli) (HT 2-0)	
Best – Adelaide Galaxy: Kodi Madeley, Shaun McGreevy, John Fusco; Campbelltown City: Michael D’Alosio, William Russell, Les Pogliacomini,	
Reserves – Adelaide Galaxy 5 v Campbelltown City 1	
U19 – Adelaide Galaxy 3 v Campbelltown City 2	
Para Hills 1 (Russell Clayton) v Croydon 1 (Luke Klimek) (HT 0-1)	
Best – Para Hills: Shane Tobias, Alex Mullen, Russell Clayton; Croydon: Frank Violi, Michael Papacharalambous, Luke Klimek	
Reserves – Para Hills 4 v Croydon 2	
U19 – Para Hills 2 v Croydon 1	

Standings										
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Gd	Pts		
1 Adelaide City	12	11	1	0	38	10	28	34		
2 Metro Stars	12	9	1	2	30	7	23	28		
3 Adelaide BE	12	6	2	4	13	14	-1	20		
4 Western Strikers	12	6	1	5	17	12	5	19		
5 Adelaide Galaxy	12	4	4	4	15	18	-3	16		
6 Croydon	12	3	3	6	10	-7	12	9		
7 Para Hills	12	3	3	6	9	16	-7	12		
8 Campbelltown	12	3	2	7	8	16	-8	11		
9 Raiders	12	3	1	8	15	21	-6	10		
10 Modbury	12	2	2	8	11	36	-25	8		



Armadale took a huge step towards ensuring their survival in the WA Premier League with a 2-1 win against fellow relegation contender Mandurah City. Victory saw Armadale establish a six-point gap above Mandurah, which sits in the first of two relegation places, with Cockburn City three points further back. With only six games left for both Armadale and Mandurah, the southern suburbs side must drastically improve on their dreadful run, which has seen them win just three of their 16 games this season, to have any hope of another season in the top flight. Both sides finished the match with 10 men after Mandurah's Tom Straker was sent off for a bad challenge, which Armadale's former Perth Glory attacker James Robinson reacted too strongly to, resulting in him also seeing red. Ironically, both of those players scored earlier in the match, with Robinson giving

Armadale establishes gap

ing the visitors the lead after seven minutes before Straker responded shortly after. But it was Matt Barlow who put Armadale in front again after 35 minutes and his side held on for the vital victory. Stirling Lions climbed into the top five with a comfortable 3-1 away victory against fellow finals contender Western Knights. The Lions climbed above heated rivals Floreat and into fifth spot, ahead of Athena's Sunday fixture against league leaders Balcatta. It was one of Stirling's best performances in the season, as they controlled most of the match and ensured the Knights' disappointing streak continued. They've won just one of their past five games. The Lions were dominant early and took a 3-0 lead within 60 minutes after Jamie Watt scored twice and former Glory player Anthony Skorich scored another. Veteran striker Stuart Ferguson managed to get one back for the Knights, but it was too little too late. Bayswater City moved nine points clear of the relegation zone with its 2-0 win at ECU



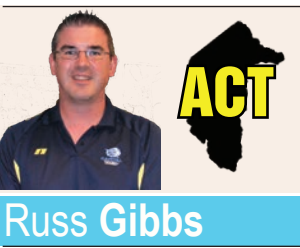
Armadale defender Tom Kennedy and Mandurah City midfielder Garin Collins in action at the Hyundai Stadium
Photo: PETER SIMCOX

Joondalup. Gustavo Marulanda continued his outstanding form for Bayswater, converting penalties in the 16th and 19th minutes before his side limited Joondalup's opportunities and held on for the win. City have now won two straight and are unbeaten from their past three games, while ECU has won only one

of its last four. Inglewood United missed the chance to consolidate its place in the top five as Sorrento held it to a 0-0 draw. Just one point separated fourth-placed Inglewood and the seventh-placed Gulls, although both sides have at least one game in hand on most others finals contenders and two on Stirling, which

sits in fifth. But Sorrento hasn't taken the three points since May 14 and will need to improve its form to finish in the finals. Perth SC comfortably won its match against the NTC 2-1, but matches against the youngsters don't count for points.

Tigers Overturn Deficit To Defeat Woden



Canberra Olympic has won the Robin Waring Shield after they defeated rivals Canberra City 3-0 in their Rock Premier League Round 9 match at Hawker Football Centre. The Shield is played in honour of former City player Robin Waring who was tragically killed when falling from a roof. Several of the current City squad knew Robin well and the match is staged annually against Olympic in his name. It was Olympic who dominated the tie from the kick-off with their midfield certainly in the ascendancy and leaving City chasing shadows as they stretched the play from one side to the other on the slick artificial surface. It was therefore little surprise when they took the lead after only ten minutes. A rapid attack saw an Olympic player advance into the area where he was baulked by City defender Tom Castleton and, despite the stopper protesting his innocence, FIFA referee Ben Williams had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. In-form Olympic striker Domenic

Giampaolo did the honours from twelve yards to give his team the lead. Four minutes before the interval Giampaolo had his second, and his ninth of the season to date, as Olympic turned their overall supremacy into a deserved 2-0 half-time advantage. A third goal, struck home by Robbie Shroder for his fifth goal of the year, sealed the result in the 69th minute as Olympic moved into second place on the ladder. At Kambah 2 the eagerly awaited battle between Monaro Panthers and Tuggeranong United turned into a stalemate with neither side able to break down the opposition defence with the 0-0 draw a fair reflection of the match. Former United striker Mark Shields had the best chances for the visitors with Tuggeranong goalkeeper Alex Connell producing a superb diving save to deny him in the first half. Shields really should have given the Panthers the lead after the break blazing over with the goal at his mercy as he ran onto a square pass from Daniel Cobertaldo. At the other end the closest United came was when defender Chris Ruiz, up for a free-kick, saw his point-blank effort well saved by Matt McDonald in the Panthers goal. Over at Cookbundoon bottom of the table Goulburn Strikers gave Cooma Tigers



Steve Oxford (left) wards off the challenge from a Monaro player.
Photo: NICK GUOTH

an almighty scare with the visiting team forced to come from behind to take maximum points as they eventually ran out 5-1 winners. The Strikers, who have been hammered on several occasions this season, finally managed to awake from their slumbers and stunned the Cooma entourage by taking the lead when Andrew McDonald

scored. Cooma had to wait until first half stoppage time to equalise when Goran Josifovski levelled the scores. The Tigers went in front six minutes into the second half thanks to Dominique Labutte's first goal of the season and when James Schofield made it 3-1 five minutes later the sense of relief from Cooma was almost audible. A

brace from Todd Donaldson, the first in the 67th minute and the latter a minute from time added a gloss to the score and left the Strikers ruling what might have been in what was a better all round and more structured approach from Gerry Doran's team.

All Flags WA Results	
First Team	
Inglewood United 0 Sorrento 0; Perth SC 2 (Onoforo 21, Sharland 50) NTC 1 (Vulin 44); ECU Joondalup 0 Bayswater City 2 (Marulanda 16p, 19p); Mandurah City 1 (Straker 20) Armadale 2 (J Robinson 7, Barlow 35); Western Knights 1 (Ferguson 53) Stirling Lions 3 (Watt 12, 49, Skorich 21).	
Reserves	
Inglewood United 2 Sorrento 1; Perth SC 5 NTC 5; ECU Joondalup 1 Bayswater City 1; Mandurah City 4 Armadale 3; Western Knights 2 Stirling Lions 1.	
Under 18's	
Inglewood United 1 Sorrento 3; Perth SC 3 NTC 3; ECU Joondalup 4 Bayswater City 3; Mandurah City 0 Armadale 2; Western Knights 2 Stirling Lions 4.	

Next Round	
Perth SC v Inglewood United BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Cockburn City v NTC Dalmatinac Park 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Bayswater City v Stirling Lions Frank Drago Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Balcatta SC v Armadale SC Grindelford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Western Knights v ECU Joondalup Nash Field 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Sorrento FC v Mandurah City Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
BYE v Floreat Athena FC	

All Flags WA Premier League	
	P W D L For Ag Gd Pts
1 Balcatta	15 12 0 3 39 15 24 36
2 Perth SC	14 10 1 3 31 16 15 31
3 Western Knights	15 7 4 4 24 23 1 25
4 Inglewood United	14 7 2 5 35 24 11 23
5 Stirling Lions	16 7 2 7 29 28 1 23
6 Floreat Athena	15 6 4 5 28 24 4 22
7 Sorrento	14 6 4 4 20 18 2 22
8 Bayswater City	16 5 5 6 28 31 -3 20
9 ECU Joondalup	16 6 2 8 19 30 -11 20
10 Armadale	16 5 2 9 24 32 -8 17
11 Mandurah City	16 3 2 11 13 26 -13 11
12 Cockburn City	15 2 2 11 21 44 -23 8

ACT Results	
Canberra City 0 Canberra Olympic 3 (Domenic Giampaolo 10' (pen), 41', Robbie Shroder 69')	
Goulburn Strikers 1 (Andrew McDonald 25') Cooma Tigers 5 (Goran Josifovski 45', Dominique Labutte 51', James Schofield 56', Todd Donaldson 67', 89')	
Tuggeranong United 0 Monaro Panthers 0	

Next Round	
TUFC v Canberra Olympic Kambah 3:00 PM Sat 2/Jul	
Goulburn Strikers v Canberra City Cookbundoon 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul	
Monaro v Cooma SC Riverside Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul	
Woden Valley v Belconnen United Woden Park Enclosed 3:00 PM Sun 3/Jul	
BYE v Canberra FC PL	

ACT Standings	
	P W D L For Ag Gd Pts
1 Canberra FC	7 7 0 0 45 7 +38 21
2 Canberra Olympic	8 6 1 1 32 11 +21 19
3 Belconnen United	8 6 0 2 36 15 +21 18
4 Canberra City	8 4 1 3 28 12 +16 13
5 Woden Valley	7 3 1 3 26 14 +12 10
6 Cooma Tigers	8 3 0 5 18 27 -9 9
7 Monaro Panthers	8 2 1 5 20 19 +1 7
8 Tuggeranong Utd	8 1 2 5 12 20 -8 5
9 Goulburn Strikers	8 0 0 8 2 93 -91 0

Leading Scorers	
18 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United) 12 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers) 11 Paul IVANIC, Victor YANES (both Canberra FC)	
9 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra Olympic) 8 Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley) 7 Nikola TANESKI (Canberra City), Michael SPALETA (Canberra FC)	
6 Tom ROGIC (Belconnen United)	
5 Danny MACOR (Belconnen United), Adam DOBELL (Canberra City), Ian GRAHAM (Canberra FC), Mohsen RAVANPARSA, Robbie SHRODER (both Canberra Olympic), Paul GAGETTI (Woden Valley), own GOALS BEAUMONT (Tuggeranong United)	

IN OFF THE POST

mailbag@goalweekly.com



Got something to say? Why don't you share it with the rest of the football community and get it off your chest.

MORE FROM WHERE THAT CAME FROM...

Dear Sir,
I would just like to point out a slight spelling mistake in last week's GW. The pin-up girl on page 14 had 'Morecombe' spelt wrong. Morecombe should be spelt Morecambe. I know because I was born there in 1936. It's on the north west coast of England, 50 miles north of Manchester and 20 miles north of Blackpool on the road to the Lake District. Very nice views around there.

Best wishes,
D.Gardner
Hampton Park



Morecambe and Wise: Derek Gardner showed exactly why he was an eagle-eyed referee, after spotting a spelling error with last week's WAG of the Week.

Hoops to host open training sessions in Australia

CELTIC arrive in Australia this week for a pre-season tour that will see the Hoops visit Sydney, Perth and Melbourne.
The trip will involve three matches for Neil Lennon's side as they prepare for the 2011/12 campaign, while it will also give Celtic fans in Australia a chance to cheer on the Hoops.
The team received an incredible welcome when they visited Australia two years ago, and they're assured of a similar reception this time around. The players and manager are looking forward to the trip and to meeting the fans.
And the club will be hosting open training sessions in the three cities during the tour so that they get the chance to meet as many Celtic fans as possible.
Meanwhile Celtic manager Neil Lennon will aim to convince sought-after duo Emilio Izaguirre and Beram Kayal to sign new deals during the upcoming tour of

Australia.
Izaguirre claimed on Saturday that Manchester United had made an approach for him, while Kayal has been linked with Liverpool and Valencia.
After signing a new 12-month contract himself last week, Lennon is now looking to tie down some of his key players and revealed that talks with Kayal had begun ahead of their departure for Australia this week.
"We've opened preliminary talks with Kayal's people," he told the Sunday Scottish Mail. "He knows I want to keep him and he's making the right noises about staying. That's great news. It's the same for Izaguirre."
"Going to Australia on tour this week will give me the chance to sit down with Beram. I'll need to sit down with Beram, look him in the eye and get a feel for what he's thinking. He knows I have his best interests at heart."

Lennon believes both players will benefit from remaining at Celtic Park, although he admits keeping them would be difficult should a top-four Premier League club come knocking.
"I can help them progress. They have the supporters on their side and a great affiliation with them. They would struggle to get that at many other clubs," he added.
"I'm sure there are Premiership clubs that could offer them better deals but at this stage of their careers money shouldn't be that important.
"There is no need for them to rush off and go to the Premiership just yet. They can stay here a year or two and then look at things after that. My whole point to them will be that unless it's a top-four club in England then I don't think there are many better places to be than here."

WAG OF THE WEEK



Valentina Zambrotta Age: 30
Scored with Gianluca Zambrotta (AC Milan)

Couch Potato Dept.



* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS

SBS ONE
Monday June 27th
08:45 AM FIFA U-17 World Cup Mexico 2011: Australia v Denmark - **Live** from Estadio Corregidora, Queretaro, Mexico.

Wednesday June 29th
01:45 AM FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011: Brazil v Australia - **Live** from Borussia-Park, Mönchengladbach, Germany.

Sunday July 3rd
10:30 AM Football Asia
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature

SBS TWO
Monday June 27th
09:00 PM Highlights Women's World Cup

09:30 PM The World Game - Highlights from the final of the FIFA World Cup South Africa 2010.

Tuesday June 28th
09:00 PM Highlights Women's World Cup

Wednesday June 29th
09:00 PM Highlights Women's World Cup

Thursday June 30th
09:00 PM Highlights Women's World Cup

Friday July 1st
09:00 PM Highlights Women's World Cup

Saturday July 2nd
09:00 PM Highlights Women's World Cup

one

Tuesday 28th June
02:30 am FA Cup Classics West Ham United V Chelsea FA Cup 4th Round Replay 2001/02

Wednesday 29th June
02:30 am FA Cup Classics Preston North End V Arsenal FA Cup 3rd Round 1998/99
03:00 am Arsenal TV 2010/11 Season Review (Part 2)
12:00 pm 500 Great Goals

Thursday 30th June
02:30 am FA Cup Classics Arsenal V Chelsea 2003/04

Friday 01st July
02:30 am FA Cup Classics Chelsea V Manchester United 1998/99

Saturday 02nd July
02:25 am FA Cup Classics Chelsea V Manchester United 1995/96

Sunday 3rd July
06:00 am The Magic Of The FA Cup Tottenham Hotspur - Greatest Games

Monday 4th July
02:30 am FA Cup Classics Chelsea V Tottenham Hotspur FA Cup 6th Round 2006/07

03:00 am Arsenal TV 2010/11 Season Review (Part 3)

06:00 am Football: The Magic Of The FA Cup Leeds United - Greatest Games

Thursday 07th July
07:30 am Football: The Magic Of The FA Cup Manchester United - Greatest Goals

SETANTA SPORTS

Saturday 2nd July
Copa America Group A Argentina v Bolivia 10:40am **LIVE**
J-League Round 2 Cerezo Osaka v Kashiwa Raysol 8:00pm **LIVE**

Sunday 3rd July
Copa America Group A Colombia v Costa Rica 4:25am **LIVE**

Monday 4th July
Copa America Group B Brazil v Venezuela 4:55am **LIVE**
Copa America Group B Paraguay v Ecuador 7:25am **LIVE**

Tuesday 5th July
Copa America Group C Uruguay v Peru 8:10am **LIVE**
Copa America Group C Chile v Mexico 10:40am **LIVE**

Thursday 7th July
Copa America Group A Argentina v Colombia 10:40am **LIVE**

Friday 8th July
Copa America Group A Bolivia v Costa Rica 8:10am **LIVE**

31 tvnow!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Wireless FC

Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discuss local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

The Four Diegos
Monday to Thursday 11pm
SEN

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LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

He's young, he's Portuguese and he's won lots of trophies. No, not him! I'd like to propose a big welcome to England to Andre Villas-Boas, the new coach at Stamford Bridge. Hold on, he's actually not that new to the capital. You see, he came as the part of the package that saw Jose Mourinho move from Porto to Chelsea many moons ago.

Obviously, that is not the only thing he has in common with "The special One". He has pretty much swept all before him in Portugal, having won four trophies last term. These are all tremendous feats, and there is no doubt that, at 33, he is a hot young coach. But has he really got what it takes to succeed in England now that he is top man at Chelsea?

That is a tough question to answer because sometimes you wonder how much a coach's success is down to the man in charge or his players. I guess we'll find out at both Chelsea and Porto, because as AVB moves to London his former assistant Vitor Pereira has taken over the reins at Porto. If they keep winning, it's all well and good, but if they fall off the rails maybe their success was due to the departed coach.

But none of that really has an effect on Chelsea. Villas-Boas will know that he has to win, and he has to win now. His reputation might have been stellar in Portugal, but so was Luis Felipe Scolari's, and he was sacked about six months into his rein. Make no mistake, there is a lot of pressure on the Portuguese, because of the €15m Chelsea paid to release him from his contract, and the fact that he will face competition that is far keener than anything he ever witnessed in Portugal.

There is also the impression that, for all his success last year and his burgeoning reputation, AVB was not Chelsea's first choice.

It seemed that Guus Hiddink, the Dutchman, was on Roman Abramovich's radar even as the bullet was entering Carlo Ancelotti's skull. Given that Hiddink's best days were at PSV Eindhoven many moons ago, it is hard to understand just how this guy has such a big reputation. He coached Russia to a European semi final, but, overall he does seem to perform better for smaller nations and clubs, where there is less pressure. AVB knows what he is getting into and he knows what is expected. My problem is I don't

know if he is as fully prepared as he should be.

Word has it, that Hiddink scuppered his chances of a return to The Bridge because he is said to have wanted Ray Wilkins, the assistant coach who was sacked earlier last season for "reasons unknown", back with him. The Dutchman had him as his assistant for three months during a caretaker spell and the two are said to have gelled very well. Considering that RA gave him the bullet, the chances of that happening were the same as a lottery win.

My problem with AVB is that any great coach needs a great assistant to take the heat off him. Therefore, I think the loss of Vitor Pereira should not be taken lightly. This, time Porto were very quick to announce him as AVB's successor, in case he be whisked off to Chelsea with all the other coaches.

But taken your assistants is one of the things that Jose Mourinho was good at. Mourinho learnt this from Sir Bobby Robson. Robson had Mourinho with him at Porto and Barcelona, and Jose took his own staff to Chelsea and to Inter Milan. He couldn't take AVB to Madrid because he was hired as Porto manager. A winning trend is to take your assistant with you or at least have a trusted assistant in place already at the club, like Wilkins was for Ancelotti, at least in his first year. AVB is bringing some of his Portuguese buddies with him, but an article in Saturday's edition of the independent summed up the current situation at Chelsea.

"Michael Emenalo, who was promoted to assistant first-team coach when Wilkins was sacked, will remain at the club, although he might be given a new role. The Nigerian, considered by many to be the "eyes and ears" of Abramovich, is a contender for the sporting director role vacated by Frank Arnesen, who left last month."

Basically, everything is tits-up in the air. There's an assistant in place who wasn't appointed by the manager. He may yet be ousted and then AVB will probably be allowed to appoint his own assistant. Is that really the way to run a professional football club? Answers on more than a postcard to RA at CFC. However, there are some positive signs. The Independent reported that:

"Villas-Boas is to take a more



New man about town: Andre Villa-Boas gives the thumbs up to his new job at Stamford Bridge.

Will Boas Be Constricted By Chelsea?

hands-on approach to buying new players, hence his title of "manager" rather than "first-team coach", which is how Ancelotti was described."

Rumour also has it that Falcao, the Columbian striker, will go to Chelsea in a deal worth about £26m. The moral of the story? If you cannot take your assistant, at least poach some of the players. Will it work out? If Roman can let the football people do what they do best then he can focus on what he does best: ploughing money into the team, partying on his yacht and watching the team win football matches. If that happens, and they sign a couple of creative midfielders, they can win the UCL in two years.

The Young Ones
I find the signing of Ashley Young by Manchester United to be rather bizarre, in that he

is a wide player who can play where Park, Nani and Valencia play.

It's not so much that he's a bad signing, because at £15m he's a very good signing. But only if he plays week in and week out. He is very versatile and plays all across the midfield.

However, he is not the creative central midfield player that Manchester United is crying out for. One thing he will do is listen to SAF, and try to iron out the deficiencies in his game: the errant crossing and the falling over in the penalty area. Hell, he might even start scoring goals. It would be no surprise in a year's time if people are talking about Ashley Young as a £15m bargain.

Something that put the fees paid for players like Jordan Henderson (£20m from Sunderland to Liverpool) and Phil Jones (£18m from Blackburn to Manchester United)

in perspective is the fee that Basel reportedly wants for Xherdan Shaqiri. Here is a 19 year-old player who is a full international and an under 21 international. It is widely acknowledged that this guy is just as talented as Jack Wilshere is.

How much do Basel want to him? If reports are right they have quoted Hamburger SV around £7m for this prodigious talent. Apparently, Hamburg is balking at paying this, but quite frankly this is a bargain and puts the English player's fees to shame. So why isn't there a stampede for this guy?

The trouble is Shaqiri is Swiss and he is cheap, so the bigger clubs are not so interested and the smaller clubs like Wigan or West Brom just aren't big enough for this guy. Over here, we like Swiss players like Senderos and Djourou, for some inexplicable

reason.



Bargain hunter: Ashley Young

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Roar In Trim and Terrific Hands

Paul Trimboli, the former South Melbourne star, was last week appointed as General Manager of Football at A-League champions Brisbane Roar.

Trimboli won 48 caps for Australia, 39 of these being for full ‘A’ internationals. His first cap was against Fiji in 1988 and his last against Tahiti in 2002.

I spoke with Trimboli on Saturday.

Walter Pless: What will your role be at Brisbane Roar?
Paul Trimboli: Well, my title is General Manager of Football, so basically I’ll be overseeing the football department, including the coaches, the players, the off-field staff, and being the link between the football department and the chief executive and the board.

WP: Do you have any role in player transfers or purchasing players.

PT: I think I will play a part, in conjunction with the head coach, Ange Postecoglu. He’s one of those coaches who is really hands-on with that sort of stuff. He loves doing that sort of thing, but I will definitely play a part with him, possibly putting together a wish list and then I’ll investigate the opportunities and then I’ll obviously be a filter for information coming in to the club and the I’ll obviously talk to Ange about the opportunities that have been presented to us and see what he thinks. It’ll be a collaborative approach.

WP: You used to be a team-mate of Postecoglu at South Melbourne?

PT: Yes, I was. When I first started there, he was captain of the club.

WP: It must be satisfying to catch up with him again and work with him?

PT: Yes, it’s going to be a lot of fun. As I said, when I started at South Melbourne, he was the captain and then it progressed to the point where he was the coach and I was a player. It’ll be nice to link up again.

WP: Brisbane Roar swept the board last year. Is it a challenge to maintain that sort of standard?

PT: Oh, absolutely. I think I was one of the people around the country who looked from a distance with a bit of awe at the way they went about it. I think they have really reached a new standard for what’s possible, not only in results, but in the manner in which they played. It was breathtaking at times.

WP: Brisbane Roar will be playing in Asia. What sort of challenges does that pose?

PT: It’s a massive challenge.



In action for South Melbourne against Melita Eagles in the NSL. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Obviously, no Australian club has ever won that competition [Asian Champions League]. Adelaide did a wonderful job of making the final, but I think since they made that final, Australian teams haven’t fared all that well. Obviously, we need to look at that and obviously formulate some sort of strategy so that we can do better. But, I think it’s another step up for the team and another challenge, which I think is good in a way because, having been so convincing last season, if they were getting a hint of maybe taking their foot off the pedal, this is definitely the thing that should inspire them and motivate them to do it again.

WP: Have you relocated to Brisbane yet?

PT: No, I haven’t. I’m still finishing up my previous job, in which I have another three weeks to go. At the end of July, I’ll move up there to start on August 1st.

WP: What have you been doing, apart from media work, since you retired as a player?

PT: I’ve been working with Puma Sporting Goods. I’ve been the sponsorship and promotions manager there, which means I’ve been responsible for putting together the list of athletes across the different codes that represent Puma as ambassadors, and obviously working with all the management companies and contracting the athletes that we think are a good fit, and then working with our marketing company in how we utilise them in terms of the promotion.

WP: Will you miss your media work? I listened to your com-

mentary on radio recently of the Australia versus Serbia game.

PT: I think so. It’s really fun and something that I enjoyed doing. There’s nothing quite like feeling you’re part of the action when you’re not playing. Playing is the best part, but then I think it’s always a bit of an adrenaline rush. It was good fun. I was very privileged to be given that opportunity, especially the radio. It’s a great medium and I really enjoy it. I think you really get to paint a picture for people who obviously can’t see what’s going on. I think I will miss that a little bit, but I think I’m going to have plenty of other stuff to get my teeth into.

WP: Is radio work a lot more difficult than the TV work you’ve done?

PT: It’s interesting. I actually find radio, in a way, easier, because my first foray in the media was radio. I’d done that for a couple of years and then I started with the TV and often I found myself having the director in my ear saying ‘Now, watch the monitor’. I tended to be watching the field and seeing something and wanting to comment on it, whereas, obviously, when you’re doing TV, you need to be referring to the pictures that the people at home are seeing. So, that was a challenge for me, whereas with radio, I enjoyed it because I think you had a little bit more time and a little more scope to discuss things rather than having to stick strictly to the pictures.

WP: Do you have any coaching aspirations?

PT: Not really. It was one area that, when I finished



Trimboli leads out South Melbourne in the World Club Championship in 2000.



Calling the shots in 3D with Michael Zappone for Fox Sports.

playing, that I didn’t really have a great motivation to get involved in. I saw a lot of my friends go to it. I always had interests in management and sort of squad building and putting together that sort of side of it, but the actual instruction on a day-to-day basis, in terms of the teaching or the strategies on the field, it never really appealed to me that much. I always used to make a glib comment that I never knew what I was doing when I was out there and that I was making it up as I went, so to try and tell someone else what to do is going to be a bit of stretch for me.

WP: Francis Awaritefe is now at Melbourne Victory. Do you see your cohort now sort of coming through to the top ranks of Australian football?

PT: Yes, it’s interesting that it all sort of happened on the same day. It was intriguing. And, Mehmet Durakovic is another former player of ours, so that as very exciting. I think so. I think there’s a great wealth of football knowledge, and I think some of these guys are now actually getting some knowledge in other areas across the business world. Francis, as we know, has done an MBA and he’s worked in a sort of senior management role in a couple of different areas and he’s also done some stuff in terms of media. He’s been analysing the game, so he’s across a lot of areas and he’s also at an age now where he’s quite mature, so it’s a logical step. If they’ve got the capabilities, people of that ilk get involved.

WP: Is that important,

rather than, say, having overseas people coming here?

PT: I think there’s obviously horses for courses. I think you can never rule anybody in and anybody out categorically, but I think the one thing with the local guys, if they’ve got the ability, is that they know the landscape and, generally, their heart is in the right place and generally they’re in for the long haul here, if you know what I mean, rather than someone who’s out here for a one or two-year adventure, perhaps. There’s nothing wrong with that, but if we’re talking about putting things in place for the long term, I think the guys that are here definitely know their way. They’ve played here, they know the landscape, and they’re here for the long haul. I think that’s got to be a benefit.

WP: There’s been a lot of talk that the A-League is in a poor state of health. How do you see it?

PT: I don’t know if it’s in a poor state of health across the board. There’s some key areas that obviously need to improve. I think last season, definitely on-field, it really took a step forward. I thought some of the football that was played, not just by the Brisbane Roar, but by Graham Arnold with Central Coast Mariners, was very impressive. I think that Adelaide at times played a great brand of football. I think the introduction of the Melbourne Heart and what that brought to the Melbourne landscape in terms of the derby was brilliant. I think we had two or three wonderful football occasions, if you like, involving

those two teams. I think there are definitely a lot of positives. There are a lot of young players coming to the fore, which is a good sign. Other areas, such as the financial situation of a lot of clubs, continues to be an issue. I think the involvement of the FFA in a few clubs is, as good as it is in terms of their ability to look after the clubs, I think it shows there’s an issue in terms of perhaps some investment in the game. Obviously, there’s some crowd issues. Clubs are obviously budgeting on getting bigger crowds and they didn’t get them, but whether that’s a marketing thing or whether that’s a timing thing, we’ve seen them move the teams in a little bit to try to maybe alleviate some of that. So, there’s definitely issues, but I think they’re ongoing issues that need to be worked on, but I think there are also a lot of positives.

WP: Would you like to be young again and play in the A-League?

PT: Oh, I think it would be wonderful. I mean, don’t get me wrong. I loved the career that I had in my time in the game, but I think when you look at the potential now and the possibilities for these players, it’s just fantastic. Look at the infrastructure in place, the full-time aspect of it, the facilities they get to use, the stadiums that they get to play in, the coverage, and even Australia’s introduction to Asia has opened up another world. You get club football, international club football. We were one of the few clubs that was able to experience that with South Melbourne, but now there’s two clubs every year who get to experience that. I mean, there are so many opportunities now for the young players, it’d be marvellous.

WP: When you move into your new office for the first time, what is your first priority going to be?

PT: I think my first priority is to meet everyone and just sort of immerse myself in what is going on up there because there is a lot going well up there. That’s the one thing I’m very conscious of. They were doing a lot right last season. The first thing I’ll be doing is catching up with everybody and finding out what everybody does and what they’ve done that’s made it so successful and then, hopefully, be part of a continuation of that. You’ve always got to strive to improve, I think, and we’ve got a couple of key challenges at the club this year, such as obviously building the support off the field and then, obviously, back-to-back. No Australian club has done that yet in the A-League, so that’s the immediate challenge, and then, obviously, trying to be successful in our first foray into the ACL.

Hoffman stars as Olyroos Dominate

By Shaun Dyos

The Qantas Olyroos have cruised through to the next stage of Olympic qualifying with a dominate display as they crushed a clearly outclassed Yemen 4-0.

The game that was played at a cold and windy Ausgrid Stadium was illuminated by local product Jason Hoffman who scored a hat-trick, much to the delight of a small but parochial crowd of 3009, and also his coach Aurelio Vidmar. Aaron Mooy was also on the scoresheet in the comfortable victory.

“Our forwards finished their chances. (Jason) Hoffman’s bagful of goals should give him confidence going forward,” beamed a delighted Vidmar.

Hoffman’s hat-trick followed his brace on Sunday in the first leg of the tie as the Olyroos coasted past Yemen 7-0 on aggregate.

The game began in scrappy circumstances with both sides struggling to maintain possession of the ball as they found it difficult to adapt to the greasy conditions. The first major actions of the game were yellow cards to both sides which went to Munassar Awadh Ba Haj and Marko Jesic respectively for poorly timed sliding tackles.

After this initial period, it was the Olyroos who looked the moist likely and their territorial dominance was rewarded in the 18th minute. A clumsy foul was committed by Mohsen Mohammed Hasan on the right touchline. Brisbane Roar player Rocco Visconte then delivered a beautiful left footed cross which was begging to be turned into the net. Hoffman duly obliged, glancing his header past

the helpless Yemeni goalkeeper from 12 yards.

The Olyroos continued to press and should have been further ahead only moments later. A lightning counter down the left edge from Aziz Behich led to an inch perfect ball through to Hoffman. Yemeni goalkeeper Shukri Salem Abdullah spread himself brilliantly to deny the striker. The rebound fell straight to Jesic who somehow blazed his shot wide with the goal gaping.

The Olyroos were continuing to look dangerous and deservedly doubled their lead in the 31st minute. The impressive Aaron Mooy was found unmarked on the left edge of the Yemen penalty area and clipped a delightful cross onto the head of the unmarked Hoffman who nodded past Abdullah for his second of the evening.

The Olyroos continued to dominate and had a few more chances before the break but were unable to convert, much to the relief of the outgunned Yemenis.

The half time break did little to change the momentum of the match and the Olyroos again came out looking hungry to add to the Yemenis misery. The local fans only had to wait 7 minutes to see their side increase their advantage.

Visconte was again heavily involved as he drove at the Yemen defence with another dangerous run before looking up and spotting Hoffman on the penalty spot. He slid the ball straight into the striker’s path and he was left with the easiest of tasks as he stroked the ball to the right of the despairing keeper and into the back of the net.

The Olyroos then began to turn on



Melbourne Heart's Jason Hoffman scored a hat-trick in the Olyroos' 4-0 win over Yemen. Marko Jesic congratulates the sometime VPL star with high fives. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

the style with some clever passing and interplay and the gap between the two sides was really beginning to become obvious. At times the match started to resemble a training drill with the Olyroos players always available to receive possession of the ball and always willing to pass and move.

In the 68th minute they managed to finish off one of their moves. Substitute Isaka Cernak was released in behind a tiring Yemen defence before he cut the ball back to the on-rushing Mooy. After taking a touch to settle the ball, he stroked the ball clinically into the bottom left corner of the net to

make the score 4-0.

Hoffman managed to put the ball in the back of the net again on 85 minutes, but unfortunately for him the effort was ruled out for offside. It was a contentious decision and the fans let their feelings be known to the referee and his assistants with howls of derision.

There was still time for Mooy to almost bring the crowd to their feet once again. The ball dropped for him in midfield about 35 yards out from goal. With his confidence soaring from his earlier goal he decided to strike on the volley with his left foot. The scorching drive seemed certain to go in but Abdul-

lah excelled himself by pulling off a brilliant diving save to divert the ball over the crossbar.

The Olyroos now progress to the next stage of qualifying where they will be placed into one of three groups of four teams. They will play the other teams in their group both home and away, with the teams that top the group qualifying for the Olympics. The second placegetters in each group go into playoffs for the right to go to London 2012.

The draw for the next round of qualifiers will take place in Kuala Lumpur on the 7th of July.

Match Details
Yemen 0
Qantas Under 23's 4 (Jason Hoffman 18'/31/52', Aaron Mooy 68')
Ausgrid Stadium, Newcastle
Thursday, 23 June 2011
Referee: Abdulrahman Abdou (Qatar)
Assistant Referees: Mohammad Jaber Dharman (Qatar) & Fares Alshammari (Kuwait)
Fourth Official: Yousef Almarzouq (Kuwait)
Crowd: 3,009
Yemen line-up: 1.Shukri Salem Abdullah (gk), 3.Nateq Hezam Qaid Raghe, 4.Ebrahim Mohammed Ali Gehamah (13.Ahmed Ali Mohammed Ald-habri 47'), 5.Amgad Abdullah Khairan, 6.Abdulaziz Mohammed Al-Gumaei (12.Ali Abdulkareem Ali Qasem 54'), 7.Najib Ahmed Qaid Al-Haddad, 9.Mohammed Al Khadher Al Anbari, 10.Samer Hasan Sulaiman (8.Yaser Yahya Al-Shaibani 27'), 11.Munassar Awadh Ba Haj (c), 15.Ammar Abdullah Qaid, 17.Mohsen Mohammed Hasan.
Substitutes not used: 2.Mohammed Mahmood Al-Muntaser, 14.Aiman Saleh Abdullah Al-Hagri, 16.Kameel Tareq Othman Mohammed, 18.Esam Abdo Qasem Al Hakimi
Yellow Cards: Munassar Awadh Ba Haj 5', Mohsen Mohammed Hasan 16'
Red Cards: Nil
Qantas Under 23's line-up: 18.Dean Bouzanis (gk), 2.Sebastian Ryall, 4.Matthew Jurman (3.Ryan McGowan 62'), 5.Aziz Behich, 6.Oliver Bozanic (c), 8.Aaron Mooy, 9.Jason Hoffman, 10.Mitch Nichols (13.Diogo Ferreira 46'), 11.Rocco Visconte, 12.Marko Jesic (7.Isaka Cernak 46'), 14.Matthew Foschini.
Substitutes not used: 1.Andrew Redmayne (gk), 15.Scott Neville, 16.Matthew Fletcher, 17.Kofi Danning.
Yellow Cards: Marko Jesic 15', Aaron Mooy 60'
Red Cards: Nil

Yemen goalkeeper Abdulah tries to thwart Olyroo Matthew Jurman in a goalmouth melee.



Young fans in Newcastle get behind the Olyroos.



Jason Hoffman shows a clean pair of heels.



Rocco Visconte turns Yemen captain Ba-Haj inside out.



Photos: PETER NEVILLE

Australian Olyroos



PHOTO: PETER NEVILLE



Australian Under 23's

The Australian Under 23's line prior to beating Yemen 4-0 in the 2nd Leg of their Olympic qualifying match played in Newcastle on Thursday 23rd June 2011. The Olyroos won 4-0 thanks to a hat-trick by Jason Hoffman with Aaron Mooy grabbing the fourth.

Back Row: Dean Bouzanis, Sebastian Ryall, Matthew Jurman, Jason Hoffman, Mitch Nichols, Marko Jesic,
Front Row: Aaron Mooy, Aziz Behic, Rocco Visconte, Oliver Bozanic (c), Matthew Foschini.



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ANTHONY COLOSIMO

Melbourne Knights FC



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

FULL NAME: Anthony Colosimo

BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne

BIRTH DATE: 11/07/1988

HEIGHT: 175cm

WEIGHT: 69kgs

MARRIED: No

CAR: VT Commodore

NICKNAME: Colo

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Fawkner Blues, Whittlesea Zebras

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: None

CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:

Zinedine Zidane

FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Lionel Messi

FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Cameron Watson

FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:

Mark Bresciano

FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO:

Tim Cahill

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:

Playing my first senior game against Mel-

bourne Victory

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN:

1997/1998 South Melbourne vs Carlton at

Olympic Park

MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE

SCORED: Probably my first Premier league

goal against Bentleigh Greens this year haha

EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY:

My first year of juniors playing for Thomas-

town Devils

FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Too

many but i recall when i was at Whittlesea

after i came out of the showers i see Eric

Vassiliadis bag over shoulder, completly

naked and his soccer boots still on walking

out the door and saying bye to the boys

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing out on

the VPL Finals due to injuries

WORST INJURY: Fractured knee

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:

Tommy Pondeljak

FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane

SUPERSTITIONS: None

TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS:

Reading the game and Positioning

WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Looking at

this years preformances it would have to be

my crossing definately

FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:

Manchester United

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Basketball,

Cricket, Golf and Tennis

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:

Micheal Jordan and Roger Federer

FAVOURITE FOODS:

Lasanga, McDonalds, Asian, Nandos

FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Adam Sandler

HOBBIES: Fishing, Hunting and Fifa

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Never been

overseas but i want to go to Rio Di Janiero

Brazil

FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: TFU

IDEAL DATE: Angelina Jolie

FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Angry Boys, How I

Met Your Mother, Family Guy

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Electro/House, Trance,

Techno

FAVOURITE FILM: I can't decide between Ace

Ventura and Happy Gilmore

LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT:

Manchester United

FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT

YOURSELF: Probably have to be that i had

signed for Oakleigh during the last transfer

period

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Dad

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Haven't played

in a VPL finals series

FOOTBALL AMBITION: Play A-League or

higher and represent Australia

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD

YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?:

Micheal Jackson

YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL:

Brisbane Roar

YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL:

Melbourne Knights

Should Rixon have been sent off?



MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

STAR Northcote striker Trent Rixon is at the centre of a controversy that erupted after his team's 6-0 demolition of Dandenong Thunder at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday.

Insiders in the Thunder camp claim that Rixon should have been red carded in the first half following a clash with Thunder central defender Steven Gray. Gray had to be subbed in the second half with blood streaming from his mouth and was taken to Dandenong Hospital.

The end result was not the sort of welcome new Thunder head coach Chris Taylor would have been hoping for after replacing Perth Glory-bound Stuart Munro last week.

Taylor only held one training session prior to Saturday's game but he may have walked into a hornet's nest as I've heard stories of unhappiness in the playing ranks and I believe that a couple of imports are heading back to the UK shortly.

My understanding is that midfielder Chris Taylor and defender Kyle Lapham, both from Swindon Supermarine, are unhappy with their shared accommodation in Dandenong and have opted to fly back home.

I've been told that other imports are ticked off at the club losing six points as a result of having to face misconduct charges and it's been put to me that the psychological impact of the deduction has affected the squad in recent weeks.

If so then Taylor the coach has a big job on his hands. Thunder has taken just one point from its last four games. It has scored three and conceded 12 goals over

that period.

That's not the form of a finals contender let alone a club that had realistic expectations of mounting a serious Grand Final campaign this season.

If at first you don't succeed ...

THERE'S a lot to be said for persistence and it paid off in the recent VPL transfer window when Thunder secured the signature of Scott Webster.

Thunder had tried to sign Webster in the off-season from Oakleigh but baulked at the asking price.

Now, I can envision big Aki Ionnas getting restless here and he's more than willing to set the record straight if my info is wrong but I'm told that Oakleigh wanted around the \$8000 mark for Webster.

When negotiations broke down Webster decided to sign for State Two outfit Morwell Pegasus coached by his father, Stan.

But all's well that ends well as far as Thunder is concerned as the club recently signed Webster as an amateur where he links up with brother Stuart, Thunder's No 1 keeper.

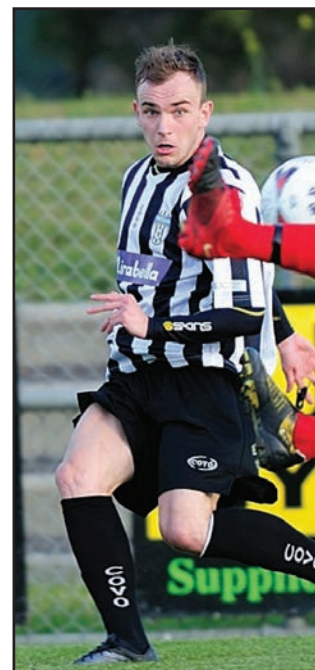
As for Pegasus, it has signed Jason Rand from Doveton. The ex-Pines, Monbulk, Southern Suburbs and Berwick City player was the Doves Player of the Year last season and is likely to be used in midfield.

Pegasus also is keen to sign a Kiwi defender who has had a couple of training sessions with the club.

At the start of the season Pegasus was training once a week at Morwell and once a week at Pakenham as a compromise for the travelling impost on the playing squad.



Trent Rixon bares the scars of battle with his arm bandaged after the altercation with Steven Gray.



Stuart Nicholson: No answer

That recently has changed to twice a week at Pakenham and the club is hopeful that this will enable it to attract more players.

Can someone help Chris, please

THIS will shock some folk at FFV but I have to report that referees Terry Bywater and Bill Young did well at Seaford on Saturday.

Yes, I can hear some of my Seaford pals going ape over what they have just read but it's a game of opinion and I was impressed with these refs.

What I am more concerned with is the possibility that Chris Bambridge may require resuscitation after also reading the opening paragraph of this column item. The great news to emerge from the game is that both clubs are alive and well. They have no problems with playing numbers and are on the rise once more.

I'm not suggesting that they'll get promoted this season but it's encouraging to report that two clubs that almost slipped off the radar after being competitive State League sides years ago are getting their acts together and have a future.

There's a history behind these sides and last season's Provisional Three South-East championship race saw Keysborough pip Seaford by

a point.

On Saturday though Keysborough's success was more decisive. They tore the Seaford defence to shreds at times and only the agility of Paul Seeley kept the scoreline respectable.

Keysborough ran out a 3-1 winner and its No 11, Marcus Roberts, has to be one of the finest players in Provisional League ranks.

I slipped unnoticed (yes, I know that's hard to believe) into the Keysborough rooms after the game and stood quietly in a corner while senior and reserves players, supporters and committeemen joined in a bouncing yelling huddle that had to be seen to be believed.

The rooms erupted in a display of unbridled triumphalism that their beaten opponents couldn't fail to hear. Suddenly the victors started belting out a little ditty that told the world what they were going to do to Seaford's women and Seaford's beer.

I am delighted to report that they only made good on the latter threat, piling into the Seaford social rooms shortly after and enjoying their success in a more subdued manner. Well done, Keysborough.

Are you out there, Stu? ANDY O'Dell had a blunt reaction to last week's MacKenzie at large column: "It was embarrassing and I have nothing else to say."

In last week's column Bentleigh Greens claimed that Stuart Nicholson had agreed to stay with the club then switched to State One outfit Whittlesea for an alleged \$4000 signing-on fee. O'Dell told me that Nicholson wanted to exercise his right of reply and I was only too willing to oblige. I tried to contact Nicholson on a number of occasions but failed.

Big day for Blasby, Ovcin

PETER Blasby celebrated his 60th birthday in style on Saturday night at the Langwarrin clubrooms.

Expectations of Blasby incarnating his Rocky Horror Show look were not realised but the big galoot had a ball.

His facebook status the next morning told the story: "Xceptional hangover."

The day was something of a marathon for a few Langy folk as senior player Boris Ovcin was married that afternoon.

Congrats to both Blaz and Boris.



Peter Blasby and Keith 'Chalky' Adams with the Dockerty Cup in 1983 after winning it with Melbourne Croatia.. Photo" JOHN PUNSHON



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Surprise results as teams scramble for points

By Niki Cook

The unpredictability of the Women's Premier League this season was very much on display again this week, with a number of surprise results. With a number of teams being both in danger of relegation, but still a chance to make finals, the mid-table scramble for points is making the WPL matches difficult to predict. Round 12 saw wins for Doncaster, Box Hill and Altona, with two other matches ending in draws. It was a disappointing round for the top four sides, with none of the three sides in action managing to record a win.

Round 11 wrapped up on Monday night, with two matches taking place. Bottom side Doncaster Rovers, which had registered just four points for the season, gave top two side Sandringham an almighty scare, holding it to a draw until late in the match, before finally conceding fifteen minutes from time. The was more drama to come in the game, with the power failing six minutes from time, but sufficient game time had been played for the result to stand. In the evening's other match, South Melbourne Women's completed the double over Heidelberg United in emphatic fashion, scoring five unanswered goals at Olympic Village to overtake United on the ladder.

Wednesday night also featured two matches, starting with the Emerging Athlete Program taking on Bundoora United at Epping Soccer Stadium. It was only the EAP's second match away from DISC, and it produced one of its strongest performances, running out to a 3-1 first half lead. Bundoora regrouped after the interval, scoring twice without reply to square the ledger and take a share of the points. The result leaves the EAP in eighth on the ladder, with fourteen points.

Wednesday's other match, which took place at White Eagles Stadium, was a catch-up game from Round 10 between Ashburton and Altona City, a vital game for both sides given their respective standings on the ladder. After a see-sawing first half, Ashburton opening the scoring shortly before the interval through Christina Leyland, only for Altona to strike back almost immediately through Sarah Sumner for a half-time score of 1-1. Ashburton dominated after the break, but was unable to find the killer blow until late in the game. Two minutes from time Bonnie Barnes broke the deadlock, giving Ashburton its sixth win of the season and third in four games.

Friday night's action was at Wembley Park and Anderson Park, with the former featuring the second Grand Final rematch of the season between Box Hill United and Heidelberg United. Over the past few seasons, games between these two sides have tended to be close, and this proved to be no different, with both sides finding the net once in the opening 45 minutes for a half time score of one-all. The second half was much the same, with both sides having their chances, but unable to find the net until the dying minutes of the game when the home side netted to claim all three points. It was further disappointment for Heidelberg, which has now lost its last three matches, and it finds Box Hill breathing down its neck just a point behind. Box Hill has endured a mixed season, but it still in the running to make the finals, as it lies fifth on the ladder.

Anderson Park was the venue for the encounter between Doncaster Rovers and Casey Comets, two teams that have enjoyed vastly differing fortunes in the WPL this season. Doncaster is rooted to the foot of the ladder and a prime candidate for relegation, while Casey is flying high in second and odds on to play finals. But, as has often been the case in the league this season, ladder position means little on the pitch, and Doncaster caused the upset of the round as it triumphed 3-2 on the night. Both teams got on the scoresheet early, with Natalie Grubic putting the visitors ahead after just three minutes before Alexandra Amore equalised six minutes later. It remained 1-1 until ten minutes into the second half when Emma Johnson gave



Elvana Curo of Altona City celebrates her goal in the round 12 Women's Premier League match between VCL Country and Altona City. Photo: SYDNEY LOW



Amy JACKSON of Altona City and Zoe Courtney of VCL Country fight for the ball. Photo: SYDNEY LOW

Rovers the advantage, but Jessica Curl pulled Casey level with twenty minutes left. The game seemed destined for a draw, but Johnson scored a late second to give the home side its second victory of the season and condemn Casey to its second consecutive defeat. The win lifts Doncaster off the foot of the ladder for the first time since the end of April, as it climbs above VCL Country. Casey remains second on the ladder, but may find itself five points adrift of Sandringham, should it win on Monday night. Ashburton extended its unbeaten run to three, and denied South Melbourne Women's the chance to go second on the ladder in the process, as the sides played out a 1-1 draw at Paisley Park on Saturday evening. The visitor opened the scoring on fifteen minutes through Seyma Erenli, before Annabelle Gibney levelled for South from the penalty spot. South had the better of the game in the second half, but

was unable to fashion a winner, and so Ashburton continued its recent good run of form, which has yielded thirteen points in its last seven matches. South remains third on the ladder, a point behind Casey, while Ashburton is sixth and now just two points outside the finals. Altona City bounced back from its midweek defeat to see off VCL Country at DISC on Sunday by the narrowest of margins. One goal midway through the first half was enough for City to claim the three points and chalk up its fourth victory of the season. Despite the win, Altona finds itself ninth on the ladder, level on points and goal difference with the EAP, but having scored fewer goals. VCL Country drops to the foot of the ladder for the first time this season, following its ninth defeat in twelve games. The final match of the round, Sandringham against Bundoora United took place on Monday night, and the



Elvana Curo of Altona City wins the ball against Brittany Patafio of VCL Country. Photo: SYDNEY LOW

result will follow in next week's paper. Next weekend, teams will be hoping that Round 13 proves lucky for them as the competition enters its final third. Box Hill United hosts the EAP at Wembley Park on Wednesday night for the midweek match, before the action moves to Anderson Park on Friday night for a huge game between two of the competitions resurgent sides, Doncaster Rovers and Altona City. Bundoora United and Casey Comets meet at Hillsview Recreation Reserve on Saturday afternoon, while later that evening, South Melbourne Women's and VCL Country clash at Paisley Park. Ashburton will look to continue its good form on Sunday when it host Box Hill United at Ashburton Park, and the round culminates on Monday evening when Heidelberg United takes on Sandringham at Olympic Village.



Claire Miller of VCL Country deflects a header from Aneta Komijat of Altona City. Photo: SYDNEY LOW

WPL RESULTS

Doncaster Rovers 3
(E Johnson 2 A Amore)
Casey Comets 2 (J- Curl N Grubic)

Box Hill United 2
(J Humble 2)
Heidelberg Utd 1 (R Zebic),

South Melbourne Womens FC 1
(A Gibney)
Ashburton 1 (S Erenli)

Res:
Doncaster Rovers 0
Casey Comets 5

Box Hill United 3
Heidelberg Utd 1

South Melbourne Womens FC 5
Ashburton 1

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	12	9	0	3	28	9	27
Casey Comets	13	8	1	4	31	17	25
South Melb	13	7	3	3	32	12	24
Heidelberg Utd	13	7	1	5	21	23	22
Box Hill United	13	6	3	4	22	20	21
Ashburton	14	6	2	6	23	23	20
Bundoora Utd	13	5	3	5	20	16	18
Emerging Ath	12	4	2	6	25	32	14
Altona City	12	4	2	6	16	23	14
Doncaster R	13	2	1	10	11	34	7
VCL Country	12	3	0	9	11	31	6

WPL Next Round

Box Hill United v Emerging Athlete
Wembley Park
Wed 29 Jun KO 7:30PM

Doncaster Rovers v Altona City
Anderson Park
Fri 1 Jul KO 8:30PM

Bundoora Utd v Casey Comets
Hillsview Recreational Reserve
Sat 2 Jul KO 2:00PM

South Melb v VCL Country
Paisley Park
Sat 2 Jul KO 5:30PM

Ashburton v Box Hill United
Ashburton Park
Sun 3 Jul KO 3:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v Sandringham SC
Olympic Village
Mon 4 Jul KO 8:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	11	11	0	0	46	8	33
South Melb	11	8	2	1	39	13	26
Sandringham	09	5	1	3	17	6	16
Casey Comets	11	4	2	5	25	21	14
Bundoora Utd	10	3	3	4	9	12	12
Altona City	10	3	3	4	11	23	12
Ashburton	10	3	0	7	19	24	9
Heidelberg Utd	11	2	3	6	16	32	9
Doncaster R	11	0	2	9	8	51	2
Emerging Ath	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0

Collingwood dents Middle Park's Record

By Michal Skrodsky

Well folks here we are, the half way point of the season. It's come fast hasn't it ? Yeah, we're half way there, and some clubs are living on a prayer. Take your scarf and your club will make it, I swear, with your support they are living on a prayer. Anyway let's review the big results of this week's Victorian lower leagues.

State 2 NW saw the Bees of Werribee City jump both Moreland and Whittlesea Ranges into top spot after a 2-0 win over Geelong. The match of the round, Moreland City vs Whittlesea Ranges was disappointingly postponed and ruining the weekend of thousands of Victorian football lovers, this reporter assumes it was due to a poor playing surface. Werribee will be hoping these two teams play out a draw.

State 2 SE has Dandenong City still sitting on top 6 points clear of second after a convincing 3-1 win over South Springvale. Second place has now changed from Eastern Lions to Malvern City. The Lions dropped 2 valuable points in a 1-1 draw with Diamond Valley United and Malvern got over Box Hill United 2-1. The biggest result of the round was Casey Comets smashing 7 past a withered Knox City. Casey are now in third while Knox remain last.

State 3 NW just got ever more purple. Keilor Park have a commanding 9 point lead over second placed Avondale Heights. Keilor smashed La Trobe Uni 4-1 on the road while the chasing group all dropped points. Avondale Heights lost 3-2 to Whittlesea United and Yarraville lost 3-4 to Sunbury United. This has left the race for second wide open for all takers with only 3 points between second placed Avondale and 8th placed Cairnlea.



State League 2 SE action from the 1-1 derby clash between Diamond Valley and Eastern Lions.



Diamond Valley winger Anthony Lagoulis spent the whole game running up and down the wing.

State 3 SE has Mornington sitting pretty after a sound 4-1 win at Peninsula Strikers. They sit now 5 points ahead of second placed Old Scotch who won on the road 2-1 against Fitzroy City but Kingston City can retake second place tonight (Monday) when they take on North Caulfield.

Provisional 1 NW saw high flying Corio drop points again this week with a 3-3 draw vs Laverton Park. Corio remain on top but only by 1 point as Sporting Whittlesea jumped South Yarra into second with a huge 3-1 win. South Yarra dropped back into fourth as North Sunshine are now third one point behind Sporting. North Sunshine this week had a 3-1 win over the mighty Western Eagles.

Provisional 1 SE has Springvale City leading the pack after 11 rounds after a 2-1 win at Monash University, but the top position comes only after last's weeks top placed team had to postpone their match at Hampton Park. A win for Beaumaris would have seen them on top by 1 point. Warragul United

slipped a little further away from the leaders after a disappointing 3-2 loss at Old Camberwell, they are 4 points behind Beaumaris. Warragul can get themselves back into the mix if they can knock off Beaumaris at home next week.

Provisional 2 NW has West Preston maintaining their lead despite a shocking 4-1 home loss to relegation battler Bell Park. West Preston can thank their lucky stars that second, third and fourth place also dropped points. Moreland United are kicking themselves after only coming away from their match with a point against Upfield following a 2-2 draw. Third placed Epping City got smashed 4-0 by Elwood City at home and Hoppers Crossing only managed a 1-1 result at Melbourne Tornado. These results have sat right in the lap of Lalor United who are now only 2 points off second in fifth place following a morale boosting 2-0 win on the

road at Northern Roosters. Next week fourth (Hoppers Crossing) will travel to fifth (Lalor United) in what should be a close and competitive match.

Provisional 2 SE is a blistering close league. Old Carey sit on top after a 3-2 win at Caulfield Cobras, one point ahead of Monbulk. Monbulk has a solid 2-0 win at Ashburton. Bayside Argonauts who sat on top last week have dropped to third thanks to a disappointing performance in their 2-2 draw with second last Boroondara Eagles. The Argonauts are 1 point off Monbulk. Only 4 points separates the top six so there is still a lot to play for and each game really is a crunch game.

Provisional 3 NW had league leaders Essendon Royals receive a footballing lesson in their 4-0 loss to Brunswick Zebras. That results has have now closed the

gap between teh Zebras and Royals to 1 point. The Royals stay on top though, but only on goal difference. Heidelberg Stars are second but really should be on top, the Stars could only muster a 1-1 draw with mid-tabled Watsonia Heights. Moreland Wolves are also only 1 point off the peak of the ladder and they had a convincing 4-1 win over Balmoral. This week also saw a relegation battle royale in the form of second last Mill Park hosting winless and last Melton. The boys from the west managed a huge 1-0 win on the road, it was also their first win of the season.

Provisional 3 SE had the talking point match of the week. There wasn't many work places that didn't witness a discussion about runaway leaders Middle Park taking on Collingwood City. The match was played a furious pace with Collingwood City upsetting Middle Park in their own

backyard 2-0. The Parkers were quite confused after the match, seeing it was their first loss of the season, they had forgotten what it's like to lose. Middle Park remain on top though with a much greater goal-difference over Collingwood. These two teams sit 5 points clear over Whitehorse United who realistically is the only team who might be able to challenge the top two.

Well folks, 11 rounds down and 11 to go. It's a long season and many teams can still come back and get themselves back into order and many teams can still fall apart. Keep supporting your teams with your hearts on your sleeves, the boys need you through these cold winter Saturday afternoons. Good luck to your teams for the second half the season and remember to keep eatin' the pudding.

CRUNCHALOR!



Action from Diamond Valley and Eastern Lions as players give chase.



Elias Tsintzas, former Foxtel Football Superstar top 11 contender now attacking midfielder lines one up for Diamond Valley.

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SHARKS ON TOP AT HALF WAY STAGE

At the completion of the first half of the season Port Melbourne Sharks sit proudly at the summit and appear to be odds on the re-entender the V.P.L. in 2012.

Their win on Saturday over a potential challenger for promotion ensure the Sharks top spot for at least a couple of weeks. Southern Stars is the other short priced favourite for promotion, but they have been issued with a strong challenge by Whittlesea Zebras who are now in 2nd place.

The Fawkner Blues were disappointed with the loss at Whittlesea last Sunday, but the Blues are good enough to re-group and get back on course. Pascoe Vale do not appear to be able to launch serious promotion challenge, but will always be good enough to steer clear of the relegation zone.

The bottom six clubs are all in the mix for the drop and will claw, scratch and fight for every point over the remaining 11 rounds to avoid finishing in the bottom 3 places. If results continue to be unpredictable as was the case in the first 11 rounds, the battle to avoid relegation will not be settled until possibly the last kick of the season.

With so many weekly positional changes at the foot of the ladder, it could be a case of which team is unfortunate enough to be in the drop zone at the end of round 22.

BACK TO BACK WINS FOR WARRIORS

NORTH GEELONG 2 FC BULLEEN LIONS 0

Both sides went into this match confident after impressive wins in the previous round, but it was the North Geelong camp that was all smiles at the end of this match following a great 2-0 win over the Bulleen Lions. The win helped North Geelong leap over Bulleen who remain in the relegation zone in this very congested lower half of the first division. A goal in each half was enough to see the Warriors take all 3 points and give Ante Skoko boys their first back to back wins this season. North were on the mark early in the match when Mark Paleka opened the scoring after 10 minutes. Bulleen had to chase the game and tried hard to get in the game but were never convincing enough in front of goal. The home team made sure of the win with a second goal scored by Reha Kurul after 67 minutes. The goal knocked the stuffing out of Bulleen who could not answer the challenge with North Keeping the visitors at bay for a second clean sheet this season.

SHARKS SEE OF A POTENTIAL RIVAL

PASCOE VALE 1 PORT MELB SHARKS 2

Port Melbourne just did enough to get the win over Pascoe Vale and maintain the all important points gap over a side that had looked championship material over the past four weeks. Port Melbourne was on the front foot throughout the first half and took a comfortable 2-0 half time lead with goals from Peter Roberts who headed his side into the lead and a goal from the ever reliable Nick Kalambokis who did the hard work, stayed on his feet and scored. For the second successive week Pascoe Vale found themselves 2-0 behind with Paco fans waiting to see if the team could repeat last week's great come back effort at Langwarrin. With their promotion hopes on the line Pascoe Vale had no alternative but to come out determined and



Reggie Davani (SGC) squirts the ball past Chris Toleski (Preston) PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Read alert for Preston as keeper Matthew Vrbec and Karlo Juravic try to block Reggie Davani's way to goal. PHOTO: JOHN OUNSHON

full of fight after the break. They put the visitors under a lot of pressure and started displaying the type of football Pascoe Vale is capable of. They had several good scoring chances without being able to convert, and had to wait until the 83 minute when Liam Flynn scored to restore hope. The final 10 minutes was a hectic affair with the home team throwing everything at Port Melbourne who one way or another managed to keep Pascoe Vale at bay for the 3 points.

ZEBRAS EARN THEIR STRIPES

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 1 FAWKNER BLUES 0

Whittlesea Zebras promotion hopes rose significantly following this close 1-0 win over fellow Italian rival club Fawkner Blues. The Zebras have overtaken Southern Stars by 1 point in second place, all be it the Stars have a game in hand. This wasn't the much anticipated classic Italian Derby with both sides nullifying each other out with little goal mouth action, in a dour first half. It appeared as if both sides

were happy not to lose with both keepers having little, if anything to do. The second half improved slightly with Vince Faherty coming close to opening the scoring when his shot struck the cross-bar. The home fans were in full voice after 75 minutes when Stuart Nicholson's sweet volley from the edge of the penalty area nestled into the back of the net, for what was to be the all important winning goal. The Zebras grew in confidence and struck the cross-bar again as they tried to kill off the game. Fawkner could not respond to the challenge with Whittlesea easily holding on for the vital win. Next Sunday Preston takes on near neighbour Preston Lions for the Northern Cup at Epping Stadium. The match will be kicked off by the Mayor of Whittlesea and the club is planning lots of half time entertainment for all spectators. The best player on the ground will be awarded the Andrew Zinni Medal named after one of the all time greats, who played for both these clubs.

GEORGIES EASILY TAME LIONS

PRESTON LIONS 0 SUN GEORGE CROSS 3

Sunshine George Cross dominated this game from start to finish as they recorded their best win of the season. It was a very impressive performance by the Sunshine team on a pitch that must be one of the worst in the league. The visitors applied immediate pressure on the Preston defence but fluffed a few good chances before Barry Devlin opened the scoring after 13 minutes. The Georgies were their own worst enemy with several good scoring chances being frittered away that kept Preston in the game at half time with only a 1-0 deficit. The pattern of the match continued after the break with George Slefendorfas twice missing opportunities to put the game beyond the home team. It was 2-0 after 55 minutes when Eduardo Soares snuck in at the back post to finish off a pass by Brendan Beni. Preston came more into the game and twice tested Mario Roza before a long range shot by Robert Najdovski came

back into play after hitting the upright. Sunshine's Fiachra McArdle showed close ball control inside the penalty area and his shot beat Matthew Vrbec in the Preston goal, but the ball was cleared off the goal line. The game was killed off as a contest in the 84 minute when Ben Cogger burst through the non existing Preston defence to shoot home number 3 from 20 metres. It was a much needed win for the Georgie boys who are at last finding their form, but for Preston the alarm bells must be ringing again following their 4th successive defeat. What is more worrying is the poor form displayed in this game. This coming Sunday Preston travels to Epping Stadium, while the Georgies will be trying to win their first home game of the season when they take on Pascoe Vale.

MAGIC'S MUCH NEEDED WIN

WESTERN SUBURBS 1 ALTONA MAGIC 2

Altona Magic bounced off the bottom of the ladder with this narrow 2-1 win over Western Suburbs at

SL1 RESULTS
North Geelong Warriors 2 (M Paleka R Kurul) FC Bulleen Lions 0
Pascoe Vale 1 (L Flynn) Port Melbourne 2
Whittlesea Zebras 1 Fawkner Blues 0
Preston Lions 0 Sunshine George Cross 3
Western Suburbs 1 Altona Magic 2
U21s: North Geelong Warriors 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Pascoe Vale 3 Port Melbourne 0, Western Suburbs 0 Altona Magic 4, Whittlesea Zebras 1 Fawkner Blues 1, Preston Lions 2 Sunshine George Cross 4

SL1 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	11	8	3	0	19	8	27
Whittlesea Z	11	7	2	2	17	8	23
Southern Stars	10	7	1	2	17	10	22
Fawkner Blues	11	6	0	5	15	8	18
Pascoe Vale	11	5	0	6	18	13	15
Sun George X	11	3	3	5	13	16	12
North Geelong	11	4	0	7	10	18	12
Altona Magic	11	4	2	5	13	15	11
Bulleen Lions	11	3	2	6	8	11	11
Langwarrin	10	3	2	5	15	20	11
Western Sub	11	3	2	6	12	20	11
Preston Lions	11	3	1	7	15	25	10

SL1 Next Round
Fawkner Blues v Altona Magic CB Smith Reserve Sat 2 Jul KO 3:00PM
North Geelong Warriors v Langwarrin Elcho Park Sat 2 Jul KO 6:00PM
Southern Stars v Port Melbourne Kingston Heath Soc... Sat 2 Jul KO 7:00PM
Whittlesea Zebras v Preston Lions Epping Soccer Stadium Sun 3 Jul KO 3:00PM
Sunshine George Cross v Pascoe Vale Chaplin Reserve Sun 3 Jul KO 3:00PM
Western Suburbs v FC Bulleen Lions Ralph Reserve Sun 3 Jul KO 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	11	8	0	3	36	13	24
Fawkner Blues	11	6	3	2	29	19	21
Western Sub	11	7	0	4	25	27	21
Whittlesea Z	11	6	2	3	24	20	20
Pascoe Vale	11	6	1	4	28	24	19
Langwarrin	10	6	0	4	20	16	18
North Geelong	11	5	1	5	18	15	16
Southern Stars	10	5	1	4	23	25	16
Sun George X	11	2	2	7	24	35	8
Port Melbourne	11	2	2	7	14	26	8
Preston Lions	11	2	1	8	19	34	7
Altona Magic	11	2	3	6	18	24	6

Ralph Reserve on Sunday. The Magic had to come from behind after finding themselves 1-0 when Giuliano Di Marco scored for Suburbs after 25 minutes. The home team nearly doubled their lead with a shot that hit the post and was cleared by Altona's defence. Magic was back on level term before half time when Kole Delev scored 10 minutes before the break. The second half saw a much more open game with both teams having a go. The match looked destined for a draw until the 80th when a poor back pass to his keeper by the Western Suburbs full back was intercepted by Koce Delev who scored. The goal floored Suburbs and it could have been much worse for the home team when a penalty kick was awarded to Magic in the 87 th minute. Kole Delev stepped up to take the kick but couldn't convert, leaving his team several anxious minutes before the final whistle. The win lifts Magic out of the bottom three places, while this defeat leaves Western Suburbs in their lowest ranking this season.



V-LEAGUE

NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round 8

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By Matthew Montgomery

North Melbourne v FC Melbourne (10-5)
After leading the Nike V-League ladder after the completion of round 7 last week, it was only fitting that North Melbourne also led the opening of the nights proceedings for round 8.

Again, as we have seen all season, Milton Sakkos had a full-strength squad to battle 10th placed Melbourne, although Sakkos had a trick up his sleeve with the addition of Queensland State Futsal representative, Renagi Ingram, who flew down from 'the land of Queens' to test his skills in Victoria's premier competition. Melbourne on the other hand were with only one change, defender Andrew Skoullous was un-available – which was a shame as Melbourne needed all the defensive power they could muster, as they were against the highest scoring side in the entire league.

And also knowing that Melbourne were going to "park the bus" and play a very negative style, North Melbourne knew they needed to come out swinging and get an early lead. And that's exactly what they got as Adam Cooper had his hand in the opening two goals of the game, first setting up big target Mirza Pedic and then claiming a trade-mark long range effort.

Then, as we have seen Melbourne do time and time again this season, they bit back through utility Mael Guilliou. But their hopes of staying close to North were shattered when a Jon Barrientos brace and Tiago Priori solo effort gave them a 4-1 lead. An unlikely header from little Melbourne playmaker, Fabiano De Britto again reduced the deficit, only for Barrientos to cancel out his goal and complete his hat-trick by half-time.

The second half saw more of the same for the league leaders as Alex Jankovic added yet another goal for his side. As De Britto seemed to leave his shooting boots at home, Melbourne defender Elias Stavridis took it upon himself to bag a goal, only for Pedic and Priori to complete their doubles shortly after. De Britto was also able to score two himself, as he beat two North defenders outside the "D" and slot past keeper Christos Apostolakis to make it 9-4.

After giving away their 6th foul for the half, Mirza Pedic was awarded a penalty, which he thumped past keeper Dan Rizio. To finish of the scoring – with seconds remaining – unlikely scorer, Dominik Rafati added Melbourne's fifth for a 10-5 score line. North Melbourne keep going from strength to strength as they show no signs of slowing, but they will be tested in the next few weeks as leading scorer Mirza Pedic is due to leave for a holiday. I'm sure they can cope.

Albert Park FC v FC Essendon (4-4)

The second encounter of the night saw Albert Park go head to head against a fresh and rejuvenated Essendon whose match against Metro was postponed.

Albert Park who are in 11th position were at full strength, only missing the services of defender Peter Ighnitiadis, and Essendon in 7th welcomed defender Boza Lojanica back into the fold. And what a welcome return it was for the stocky defender as he opened the scoring only minutes after kick-off after being set up by Alexander to easily tap in. Lojanica could have doubled his tally moments after as he was again faced with an open goal – but missed! The blunder by Boza seemed to give Albert Park the kick-start they needed as both Jason and Theo Ioanidis scored to give the Oranges a 2-1 lead.

Then as half time drew nearer veteran defender Vljako Bosnjak bolted through the Albert Park "D" to level. The scene was set for an enthralling finish. The second half was definitely one for the keepers, as both Fadi Qunqar (APFC)

Foot of the table springs into life



Ashburton's league top goal scorer, James Blackburn, continues his impressive scoring form by putting a sweet free-kick past the Brunswick wall and keeper.



Balwyn's ferocious keeper, Mario Roza, embraces captain Tony Imeri after their first win of the season against Hume.

and Ned Torbika (FCE) were constantly called into action. But it was a smart 1-2 between Chris Yang and Jason Ioanidis that put the Oranges ahead. Albert Park then seemed to fall asleep (defensively) in the space of 5 minutes, and in that time Essendon spearhead Alex Stevanovic was left unmarked and able to score two goals and restore the Reds lead.

The pressure was on the Oranges as they strived to regain their winning position. They were handed a lifeline as they were awarded a penalty, which Chris Yang was unable to convert as he forced a brilliant save from Torbika. But this did not deter Albert Park as the fought to the end and got their goal, as David Straniero thumped the ball in from distance to bring the end result to 4-4 and a share of the points. I

t was a very positive result for Albert Park, who will be welcoming back key striker Josh Berrios after 3 weeks. Chris Yang and Qunqar have also been playing well of late. As for Essendon, Brunswick await in the next round, which will be a tough encounter. A clash hopefully Dusan Bosnjak can return for.

Metropolitan FC v FC Prahran (3-3)

What an entertaining fixture, as two of the leagues quality sides – albeit both sides are in different positions on the table – in Metropolitan 4th took on Prahran in 8th.

Metro, who were coming off a bye from last week, had recruited a new player in Dion Portelli, possibly cover for the missing Husmir Ikanovic, whereas Prahran remained unchanged with a full squad. After coming off a narrow loss to Fitzroy last week, Prahran were out to redeem

themselves and to claim a big win, and they got off to a great start as Ernie Simsek turned Metro's Tomo Grgic and fired past an out-stretched Dardan Djokaj.

It wasn't going to be long until Metro opened their account, and it was a trademark Jusuf Avdic rocket from beyond halfway from Irzad Spijodic's side-ball. Sky Blues captain, Alija Redzepovic, then followed up his team-mates goal by latching onto a Portelli through ball, then Alija coolly slotted past a sprawling Michael Chami.

Then with minutes remaining, a brilliant "futsal goal" from Prahran levelled the tie. Adam Hussein gained possession in defence, ran the ball into their attacking half, passed to Ben Armstrong, who then passed to an awaiting Maxi Avram unmarked at the backpost making it 2-2 at the break.

The second half was a more tightly contested half of futsal as both keepers stood firm – both Chami and Djokaj extremely impressive. But to give the sky blues the lead, Dino Redzepovic was left unmarked and was able to score past Chami. Then with not too many chances left in the game, Ernie Simsek bobbed up to score a composed shot from distance to level the game at 3-3.

And that's the way the scores stayed until the final whistle. Prahran could've done with the win as they are only 8 points from 8 games, but still a good result against quality opposition – maybe a win next week against Albert Park? Whereas Metropolitan are to be faced with another stern test from Fitzroy in round 9.

Fitzroy FC v Pascoe Vale FC (T.B.A)

It was very unfortunate that the sched-

uled 8:45pm clash between top four heavyweights Pascoe Vale FC (2nd) and Fitzroy FC (4th) could not take place.

The replay leaves us all with something to look forward to in a few weeks time as we see are treated to witnessing Pascoe Vale's flair, style and cohesion go up against the disciplined, organised and hard-working Fitzroy FC. There is also the 'mini-battle' of Pascoe Vale's attacking duo of Andre Caro and Joao Da Silva teaming up to try and get past the leagues best keeper in Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh. A game surely not to be missed by anyone!

Ashburton FC v CF Brunswick (7-7)

The game between Ashburton and Brunswick was always going to be a battle, as both sides were battling for vital positions on the ladder – even though they are at opposite ends.

Brunswick (5th) are aiming to break into the top 4 and Ashburton (9th) are just hoping to crack the top 8. Brunswick, who normally field an unchanged line-up were going to be without both keeper Brendan Chen and defender Antonis Apostolakis – key players for the reds, but they also regained utility Damir Marusic.

The first half scoring was opened by Brunswick's star player, and Futsalroo, Danny Ngaluafé – a player who has had to lift in recent weeks, and he was off to a great start. Then as both sides traded blows, Moe Alghorabi added Ashburtn's first, but that was soon cancelled out by Munya Nyadzayo's first of the night. Then with the scores at 2-1 in the reds favour, it was all Ashburton from then on as James Blackburn added 3 and Mark Burton scored 1 to leave the half time



Albert Park's Chris Yang (L) pressures Essendon's Boza Lojanica (R) in their sides hard fought draw.



Prahran's Ernie Simsek shoots his way to an all important brace against Metropolitan.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	8	7	1	0	74	34	40	22
2 Pascoe Vale FC	7	6	1	0	42	19	23	19
3 Metropolitan FC	7	5	1	1	49	41	8	16
4 Fitzroy FC	7	5	0	2	43	30	13	15
5 CF Brunswick	8	4	1	3	48	40	8	13
6 Hume FC	8	4	0	4	43	44	-1	12
7 FC Essendon	7	3	1	3	41	53	-12	10
8 FC Prahran	8	2	2	4	45	44	1	8
9 Ashburton FC	8	3	1	4	48	63	-15	8
10 FC Melbourne	8	2	0	6	28	49	-21	6
11 Albert Park FC	8	1	1	6	35	59	-24	4
12 FC Balwyn	8	0	0	8	27	47	-20	0

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS Round 8 Wed June 22th

North Melbourne v FC Melbourne	10-5
Albert Park FC v FC Essendon	4-4
Metropolitan FC v FC Prahran	3-3
Fitzroy FC v Pascoe Vale FC	(T.B.A)
Hume FC v FC Balwyn	4-5
Ashburton FC v CF Brunswick	7-7

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 9 Wed June 29th

6:30 – Albert Park FC v FC Prahran
7:15 – Metropolitan FC v Fitzroy FC
8:00 – North Melbourne FC v FC Balwyn
8:45 – Hume FC v Pascoe Vale FC
9:30 – Ashburton FC v FC Melbourne
10:15 – CF Brunswick v FC Essendon

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1) J. Blackburn AFC	20
2) A. Redzepovic Metro FC	16
3) T. Sumbol HFC	16
4) M. Nyadzayo CFB	16
5) A. Stevanovic FCE	16

Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY
& THEO SOUFIS

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score at 5-2.

The opening of the second half saw Ashburton continue their domination as Blackburn bagged his fourth and Dima Nichiforenc came off the bench to make it 7-2. At this point the reds were missing keeper Chen, as fill-in Sam Stewart seemed out of sorts. But all wasn't lost, as the boys from Brunswick made a resurgent fight back. Damir Marusic began the resurgence with an impressive strike, then regular strike pair Ruz Roslan and Nyadzayo combined to add 1 and 2 goals respectively.

This then left the score at 7-6 with only minutes remaining. With the game in the balance, Ashburton's cry for another defender was again sounded, as Brunswick's talisman, Danny Ngaluafé, converted a late penalty and levelled the game at 7-7. And that's how the game ended. Brunswick had a re-shuffle at the back and got away with a point, and Ashburton with only one recognised defender on the list – Alghorabi – will be eagerly awaiting the round 11 transfer window as the search for a defender continues. Giving up a 7-2 lead in the second half is unforgivable.

Hume FC v FC Balwyn (4-5)

The last clash of round 8 saw 6th placed Hume FC against a winless Balwyn side languishing in 12th.

Hume would've fancied their chances to take all three points after a hard-fought win over Melbourne last week, and if Hume manager Amin Keddad had done his homework on his opposition, he would have told his troops to be wary of Balwyn who never back down from a challenge, and coming off a 4-2 loss to

champions Pascoe Vale, Balwyn were brimming with confidence. Could tonight be the night they claim their first points?

The first half didn't start off in the greatest fashion as Hume went 2-0 up in a flash as Turhan Sumbol and Moe Nabir both combined to have a hand in each other's goals. As the half went on, Balwyn found their way into the game (along with some brilliant 1 on 1 defending from Mark Saric), and then eventually found a goal as hardened defender Tony Saric executed a fine 'turn and shoot' combo.

Balwyn's confidence grew even more after the first goal, which then led to youngster Johnny Nikolokoudis completing a beautiful little dink over Hume keeper Con Makris to make it 2-2 at the break. Captain Tony Imeri then shot his Balwyn boys into the lead after the break, much to the delight of manager Matt Obeid who rode every wave of emotion with his players. Then when Nabir and Sumbol scored in succession, Obeid was certainly riding tsunami-like waves!

The score was 4-3 and all looked lost, but a late second half fight back from Balwyn saw Imeri complete his double and then when Simon Menichelli slotted underneath Makris's legs, the comeback was finally complete! Balwyn had their first win of the season! And although Hume had the better chances in the dying moments, Balwyn held on for a well deserved win.

It provides a good confidence boost ahead of their clash with North Melbourne next week. Hume are to face Pascoe Vale. Hopefully Nejdett Sahin and Resit Culculoglu will be made available as they will certainly be needed.



Doyle's Derby Strike Seals Points

By John Fotinos

A wonderful 20 metre strike from Oakleigh midfielder Hayden Doyle was enough to give his side all three points against Heidelberg United. His stunning shot in the 55th minute was the highlight in the Cannons' 1-0 victory over the 'Bergers in a match which saw few clear-cut chances, with both defences holding sway for most of the night.

Oakleigh went into the match on the back of a disappointing 1-0 away defeat to South Melbourne last week, whereas Heidelberg would be buoyant following its 3-1 win over Dandenong. The Cannons went into the game missing the services of Lagana, Offiong & Hatzikostas from last start and the 'Bergers made one change, bringing in Alilovic to the starting line-up for the injured Nicky Travis.

The first 45 minutes of the match was bereft of many real chances as both sides' defences were well on top. For Heidelberg, Aleksovski was often caught somewhat isolated up front, as usual strike partner Ederaro started in a deeper position. This allowed the Cannons' defensive duo of Tavsanoglu & Drakos to dictate terms at the back.

For Oakleigh, Diaco & Robinson were finding the going tough as Elvin & Byles at the centre of the visitors' defence were able to deal with many potentially dangerous situations.

For Oakleigh, Goodwin on the left flank was having an absorbing tussle with Heidelberg's Doumbalis, with the latter playing in the somewhat unfamiliar role of right back. Both goalkeepers were relatively untroubled apart from some half chances, although Oakleigh did have the upper hand in terms of possession as the first half wore on. The only semblance of a

chance fell to Oakleigh striker James Robinson, who stubbed a shot straight at Griffin McMaster after he'd smuggled the ball away from Craig Elvin.

Early in the second period, Alilovic played in Aleksovski, only for Zois to parry away the Heidelberg striker's low shot. Shortly after came the defining moment of the match, when Ontong's pass found Hayden Dayle. The Cannon's midfielder evaded his marker, Yared Hailemelkot, and with a metre of space available to shoot, unleashed a magnificent dipping shot that ripped into the top right hand corner to give Oakleigh the lead after 55 minutes. Oakleigh, seemingly content with the 1-0 scoreline, looked to hit Heidelberg on the break, as the visitors tried to up the tempo.

For all their increase in possession, Heidelberg was unable to break through the resolute Oakleigh defence. As the half wore on, their frustration levels increased, with some near misses, with Aleksovski twice well thwarted by Zois, and substitute McIlroy adjudged offside somewhat controversially when clear in on goal.

With Oakleigh holding on for its narrow 1-0 victory, it maintains its position at the top of the table, and now is virtually assured of a place in the Alanic VPL Finals Series. The Cannons host Melbourne Knights next Friday night at Jack Edwards Reserve. Heidelberg is now back amongst a pack of five or six teams in the hunt for three places in the top five, and hosts neighbour rivals Northcote City next Sunday evening at the Olympic Village in what may prove to be a proverbial "six-point" clash.

In the U/21's fixture, Oakleigh Cannons defeated Heidelberg United 4-0.



Heidelberg's Sash Aleksovski grabs a handful on Friday night.
Photo: PETER KAKALIAS



Man of the Match Peter Zois bravely collects the ball at the feet of Steve Martin.
Photo: PETER KAKALIAS



Oakleigh's Ricky Diaco uses his head, in more ways than one.
Photo: PETER KAKALIAS

0

6

Match Details

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, Stuart, Gray S. (Ibrahimi F.53'), Webster, Scott (Sherbon, L. 60'), Harrison, B, Tomic, A, Taylor, C., Theodore, M.(Azizi, F. 76'), Kearny, L., Stott A, Barnes, J.

Northcote City:

Petrooulos, C. Deagostino, H., Kinigopoulos, H (Curtis, N.66'), Chiapetta, A., Konstandinidis, K., Savio, P., Tzouliz, N., Rixon, T.(Di Nittis, G. 70'), Trifiro, J. Kalifatidis, J., Piermonte, D. (Coudrubias, R. 81')

Scorers:

Northcote City: Kalafatidis 24', 58', 87', Rixon 48', De Nittis 71',

City Gives Taylor a Baptism of Fire

By George Stogiannou

Northcote City scored its biggest win under coach Peter Tsolakis in his five years in charge, with a 6-0 away win over Dandenong Thunder which catapults Northcote into the top five.

Playing behind closed doors at George Andrews on a Saturday afternoon, the home team under new coach Chris Taylor, dominated the opening half hour of the game creating at least five chances in its opening spell, before City mounted a serious attack in the 24th minute. Northcote's Dean Piermonte's excellent pass inside carved open the Thunder defence for striker James Kalifatidis to slot home the opener.

The contest took a bloody detour on the half hour when Thunder's centre back Steven Gray had an encounter of the crunching kind with Northcote striker Trent Rixon's left arm and emerged with blood pouring from his mouth, minus two front teeth. As Rixon received bandaging to his bleeding arm, and Thunder's medicos searched for Gray's missing teeth, an incensed Thunder bench and players remonstrated with the referee.

Both players remained on the pitch but there was ill feeling in the match which wasn't there before the incident. The second half was a procession of City goals many capitalizing on defensive errors.

A Rixon cross from the left soon after the kick off, caught the breeze beautifully and floated over

Thunder keeper Stuart Webster inside his far post for a 2-0 lead soon after kickoff.

Gray, who was continuing to bleed from his mouth, was forced to finally cease his involvement and to seek medical attention. The hemorrhaging of goals by the Thunder defence wasn't to be stopped however. Minutes later a poor defensive header allowed Rixon to set up Kalifatidis with a square pass for his second.

City sub Gianni DiNittis came on and helped himself to two goals in quick succession, the second courtesy of a poor Stuart Webster goal kick that delivered the ball straight to De Nittis' feet.

Kalifatidis then completed his hat trick after De Nittis forced a turn-over in defence and provided the cross for Kalafatidis to head home from close range.

Nortcote City coach Peter Tsolakis commented after the game, " Six-nil is a bit flattering for us. I think the game was a lot closer than what the scoreline shows. First half I thought they were superb and lucky for us we went in winning 1-0. But we said if we can score a second early, then they have to open up. It just so happened we got a flukey goal when Trent's cross went in. From then they had to open up and there was some really good finishing by our players".

Asked about the injury Rixon sustained to his arm, he replied, " Look he did, he threw the elbow-the guy (Gray) was holding on to him and he tried to shrug him off or whatever,... he's got him in the



Not a sight you see every other day. The scoreboard paints the picture for the fans who were barred from the game. Photo: PETER PSARROS

mouth....I know they've got a few injuries and are quite depleted, but in saying that we've got a few players out as well. To come away from home and to score six, that's massive."

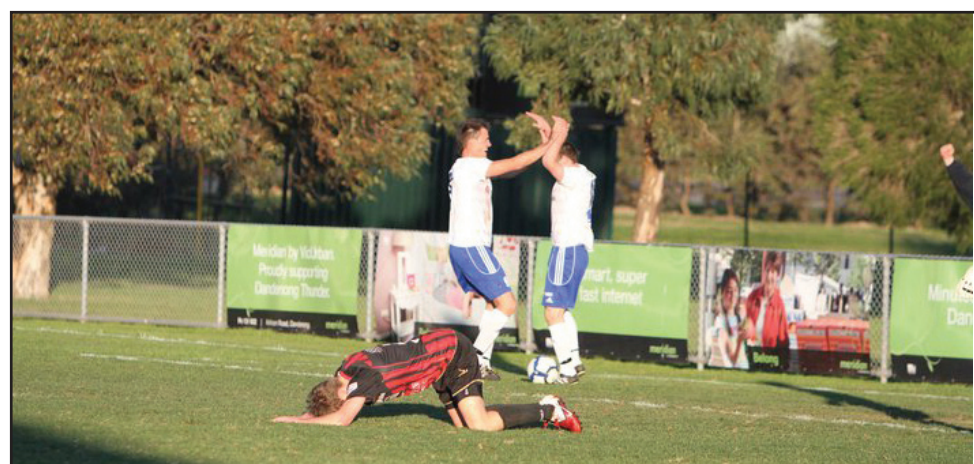
New Dandenong coach Chris Taylor who is still recovering from a hip operation, said after the match, " It's not the ideal baptism. After watching us in the first 20-25 minutes I honestly believed we looked very very good, very comfortable. The one chance they got,

they scored from. I think the change in everything was the attitude after Steven Gray had his teeth knocked out, which was an off the ball incident. Now you've to accept what the referee sees and what he doesn't see. That to me was the catalyst for what happened. We reacted poorly to it, we focused on that rather than what we were doing. I think we still tried to play football, but the goals we conceded in the second half were basic schoolboy errors. All the

defenders were accountable for at least one of the goals. Its just not good enough, for a team that's not conceded too many goals, it was just a shambles. I've never experienced that with any team I've ever had. So that's something I need to focus on. No excuse. We are limited with the players with quite a few boys missing at the moment. The first sub I used today was a boy from the resses. At the moment, if I didn't have the crutches, I'd probably get a game."



Thunder's Shane Rexhepi wins the header over Trent Rixon. Photo: PETER PSARROS



James Kalifatidis slips the ball under Stuart Webster and celebrates with Trent Rixon. Photo: PETER PSARROS

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HUME CITY

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

Match Details

Hume City: 1. Lupce ACEVSKI, 22. Phillip RICCOBENE, 6. Serdar PIR, 20. Michael BOSEVSKI, 7. Isyan ERDOGAN, 9. Pece SIVESKI, 10. Richie CARDOZO, 15. Zoran PETREVSKI, 4. Mark PISTINIZI, 12. Ross THOMPSON, 11. Andy VLAHOS.
Subs: 3. Fabio DILIZIA, 21. Dusko DELIC, 17. James RICCOBENE, 18. Kenny GEROH.

Green Gully: 1. Nikola ROGANOVIC, 2. Daniel JONES, 4. Cameron DRAKE, 6. Stephen DOWNES, 7. Jeffrey FLEMING, 8. Jason HAYNE, 10. Graham HOCKLESS, 12. Mathew SANDERS, 18. Mile MEDJEDOVIC, 17. Andy VARGAS, 19. Johnathon MUNOZ.
Subs: 23. Michael O'FARRELL, 9. Brent FISHER, 11. Pasquale VIZZARI, 18. Joel NIKOLIC, 20. Joshua PUGH.

Gully KO'd by Cardozo Hat-Trick

By Gordon Bennett

Hume City produced a dominant display to overpower Green Gully 4-0 at John Ilhan Reserve on a windy Saturday afternoon.

Star-striker Richard Cardozo scored a hat-trick for Hume with one goal in the first-half and two in the second.

Zoran Petrevski rounded off the scoring mid-way through the second half to seal the massive win for Hume City.

Cardozo stunned the crowd with two amazing goals including a back-heel before going one better with a bicycle-kick from the edge of the area.

He had 11-goals coming into the match, and left with 14, leaving him in driving position to win the Golden Boot.

Hume was the better of the two clubs in the opening stages. Bosevski had a shot hit the crossbar early on.

Soon after Hume had a deserved lead when Cardozo back-heeled the ball into the net to leave the Green Gully defence stunned.

The scores stayed the same until fifteen minutes into the second-half when Cardozo score one of the most amazing bicycles kicks ever witnessed in the AVPL to double his clubs lead.

The remainder of the first-half was fairly dull but



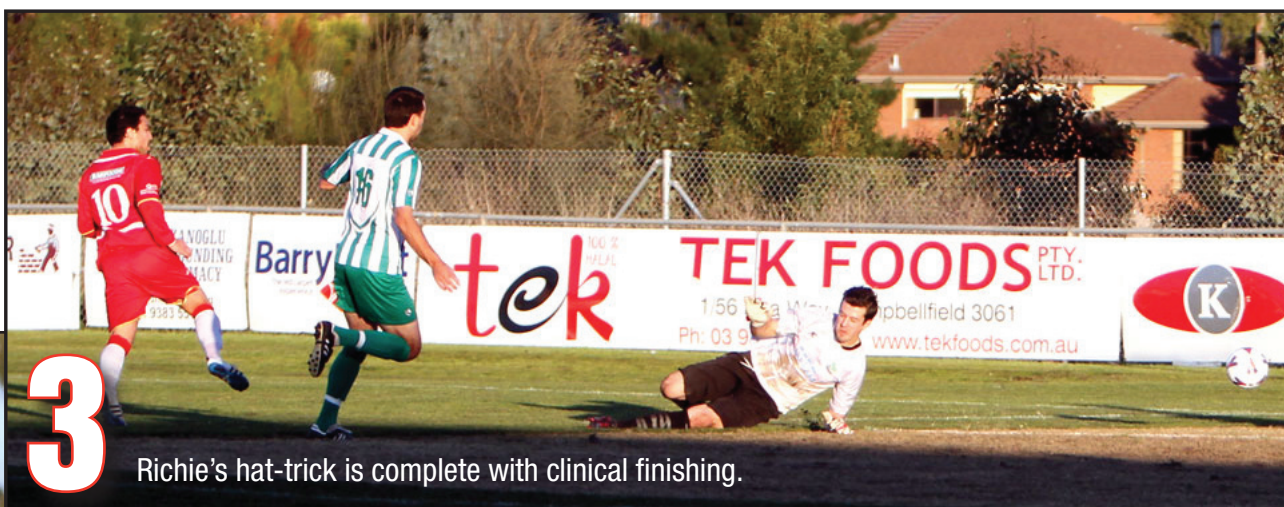
1

Cardozo's opens the scoring with a cheeky back-heel.



2

Hume's Richie Cardozo scores his second and stuns the crowd with an acrobatic scissor-kick. Photos: STEVE STAREK



3

Richie's hat-trick is complete with clinical finishing.



Hume City's other scorer Zoran Petrevski and Gully's Mile Medjedovic in full flight. Photo: STEVE STAREK

It was only a short matter of time until Cardozo secured his hat-trick, just five minutes to be exact, when he finished a great pass from Vlahos.

Zoran Petrevski got his head onto a free-kick shortly after to make it 4-0 and inflict Green Gully's worst loss of the season.

Speaking with Goal! Weekly after the match player coach was understandably pretty happy with the big result, "Yes, it was very big win. Both Gully and Hume we're going into the game having been unbeaten for about eight weeks, so we were pretty determined to come out on top. Gully were controlling things a lot for the first 15-20 minutes, I think the wind help them

put the pressure on us, but after we scored with a counter attack it was pretty much one way traffic for us. We capitalised on three early goals in the second half in ten minutes which essentially put us in the driving seat."

Asked what is the secret as to why his troops are the form team of the competition of late, Vlahos answered, "There's no secret. The team's reached a level of cohesion at the minute, so everyone understands the game plan and we like to put the ball down and play it, and we train and place emphasis on that, which is showing in the games."

Asked about Cardozo's form, Vlahos replied, "Richie has been on fire.

Last year he scored 12 goals and this year he's beaten that with still six rounds left to play, so it's all pretty positive."

As far as the rest of the season is concerned, Vlahos responded, "Well, we can only approach it one game at a time. We've got Springvale and NTC this Sunday and Wednesday, and then Bentleigh at home. I think the next three games will show where we will stand. Hopefully it puts us in a position where we can seriously consider grabbing the double chance. But, we'll see how it goes.

The good thing is that everyone is fully fit and we don't have any injuries."

RICHMOND EAGLES

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES

Match Details

Richmond: S.Gal, E.Karahan, R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger, D.Tsiaras (A.Viola 61'), T.Purcell, S.Muirhead (M.Eterovic 72'), M.Catalano, N.Marinos (D.Bonne 74'), A.Kovacic, M.Ferrante.

Goals: Marinos 3' Catalano 24'

Yellow Cards: Purcell 39'
Red Cards: None

Springvale White Eagles: S.Augustin, B.Bajic, J.Corbett, G.Ponjevic, G.Mrdic (D.Erakovic 67'), M.Lujic, D.Nikolic, D.D'Angelo, Z.Vukas (C.Woods 54'), G.Zoric, L.Karanicolas.

Yellow Cards: Karanicolas 35'
Red Cards: None

Richmond Prevails in 6-Pointer

By Mark Boric

Saturday saw Richmond host Springvale White Eagles in a genuine relegation "six-pointer".

Full points for Richmond would see them push just enough clear of Springvale and St Albans to ease fears off the drop, whilst anything less than a win for White Eagles would see their chances of staying up evaporate. Richmond made two changes to the team which lost 4-2 at Green Gully, Timmy Purcell and Michael Catalano coming in the starting eleven. Springvale added Gojko Ponjevic and Lewis Karanicolas in place of Declan Mahon and Colin Woods from the side which lost 0-2 at home to St Albans.

The game was only three minutes old when Richmond opened the scoring. Michael Ferrante sent his free-kick on the left just over the half-way line to Purcell on the right wing, who ran the ball deep into the corner before sending in a cross to the near post which Nick Marinos glanced past Scott Augustin with a neat header. The relief of an early goal saw Richmond enjoy a good spell and looking likely of adding more.

A long ball into the box from Boris Bajic in the thirteenth minute saw Stjepan Gal forced to tip the ball up as he back-pedalled towards the goal-line, managing to regain

the ball after a bounce before any opponent could pounce. Antun Kovacic and Catalano then combined down the left for Richmond, with Catalano crossing to Scott Muirhead at the far post, who crisply drilled a volley into the back of his team-mate Marinos.

In the eighteenth minute a good run from Lujic saw him cross from the right to the far post where Lewis Karanicolas sent a soft header into the grateful arms of Gal. Six minutes later Richmond would extend their lead and further diminish Springvale's hopes of getting anything out of the match. The ball was switched to Marinos on the right, who progressed down the line and crossed to the far post where Catalano steered his free-header low and just inside the post for his third goal of the season.

Catalano had a glorious opportunity to make it two goals for the afternoon just four minutes later, but scooped the ball over the crossbar when played into space just inside the penalty area. Marinos also had an opportunity denied by a desperate tackle. Purcell, making the most of his recall, was unlucky not to get a goal himself just before half-time when his long range strike scraped the outside of the post. At the break it remained Richmond leading 2-0, the White Eagles facing a moun-



An off balance Nick Marinos can't quite make it to block Gordan Mrdic's kick.
Photo:JOHN PUNSHON

tain to climb to get maximum points from the game.

Purcell had a shot saved by Augustin in the fifty-second minute, the clearance only reaching Muirhead who fired in a fierce shot which produced a brilliant save from the White Eagles keeper. The standard of play began to drop away, as the home side's intensity diminished and they resorted to quick long balls resulting in continual turnovers.

Springvale were unfortunate not to get a goal back in the sixty-fifth minute. A cross from the right to the far post was pulled back centrally for Goran Zoric to shoot, his effort striking the inside of the post and then flying straight into the arms

of a relieved Gal. Marinos had a shot easily saved by Augustin before Richmond survived another scare when a long ball almost caught out Erhan Karahan and Gal as the ball bounced between them and ran through to Lujic, who was beaten by another bounce which saw the ball get away from him.

A cross from Lujic on the right in the seventieth minute saw the ball pulled back from the left for Dushan Nikolic to shoot, Gal knocking the ball up and then holding it. The game continued to become scrappier. With five minutes to go Richmond wasted a great counter attacking opportunity, with Purcell running at two White Eagles defenders with Catalano and

Devon Bonne in support when Bonne was caught off-side as the pass went to him on the left.

With no further score, the game finished with a 2-0 victory to Richmond, earning them a vital three points in the battle for survival. Springvale are increasingly looking doomed to First Division football in 2012, now nine points behind the Eagles. They will host in-form league leaders Hume City next Sunday.

The win was the first of three games in six days for Richmond, who will meet VTC Football at Knights Stadium on Tuesday night before visiting Kingston Heath on Friday night for a clash with Bentleigh Greens.



Dimi Tsias looks around to see where Lewis Karanicolas has gone.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Milos Lujic runs into some solid opposition in the form of Ross Antoniadi.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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And It's Good Knight South!

By John Kyrrou

One of Australian football's great derbies was played on Sunday afternoon but only one team turned up for the contest as the Melbourne Knights comfortably won the honours with a 1-0 victory over an extremely disappointing South Melbourne FC at Somers Street. The victory almost assures the Knights safety from relegation danger whilst the loss has allowed other clubs to catch up to South's third placed position on the Victorian Premier League ladder.

South travelled to Knights Stadium knowing it would not be an easy match thanks to losing its fair share of derbies at the venue against the Knights in the old National Soccer League; however there was plenty of optimism considering South's excellent record at the ground, especially in VPL competition where the Blues had only lost there once in six years. There was also alot of added spice to this match considering the mid-season defections of Jean-Charles Dubois, Junior Camargo and Daniel Dragicovic from the Knights to South. Only Dragicovic was available for the game and he started the game on the substitutes bench.

Both sides began the match full of hunger and determination to get on the score sheet first. The Knights looked dangerous whenever they went forward and South had to rely on the excellent defensive work of Carl Recchia, Steven O'Dor and goalkeeper Zaim Zeneli to avert any danger, as well as luck when an unmarked header flashed just wide of the goal. At the other end, Steven Weir and Kyle Joryeff combined with some nice interpassing to expose the Knights down on the wings but unfortunately for the away side many of the subsequent crosses lacked penetration and were easy for Knights goalkeeper Aaron Romein and his defence to handle. South's best chance came from Joryeff, who worked himself into space and hit a shot that hit Romein's near post and stayed out.

The Knights scored the winning goal just after the half-hour mark, when a cross from the right could only be cleared as far as Craig Sweeney at the edge of the box. Sweeney hit a fantastic shot that gave Zeneli no chance and handed the home side the advantage.

The goal shocked South, who had been under pressure from the Knights but had managed to comfortably deal with the danger up until that point. Sweeney's goal gave the Knights a huge boost in confidence and they looked to double their advantage before the break. Just before half time, Steven Topalovic tried to play the ball out of his defence but was dispossessed and offered the Knights a shot at goal from just outside the area, however to Zeneli's huge relief the subsequent shot went just wide of his goal.

South were expected to come out blazing in the second half but most disappointingly the away side offered little more than a whimper for the rest of the match. Much of South's build-up play was slow and predictable, in contrast to the Knights who were direct and quick with their play. The home side had the advantage and were happy to play direct counter-attacking football to try and bury the game as a contest. South's only golden chance in what was otherwise a very dour second half showing was a Daniel Vasilevski run into the area that resulted in him cutting the ball back instead of taking a shot, with the ball subsequently cleared. At the other end, the Knights were denied a second goal many times through interceptions from Recchia and O'Dor as well as several offside infringements. The full-time whistle was met with loud cheers from the home supporters, who deservedly won the three points and humiliated their disappointing rivals.

The Melbourne Knights host Heidelberg United at Somers Street this coming Friday night in another clash of former NSL clubs. South hosts St Albans on Sunday afternoon at John Cain Memorial Park in yet another must-win game for the club.



The Knights are jubilant after Craig Sweeney opens the scoring against their long time rivals.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Craig Sweeney and Kliment Tasevski in derby day action. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Knights' Adam Zilic and Marinos Gasparis in a tussle for the ball. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Kozic Josip of Knights challenges Kliment Taseski of South Melbourne.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



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